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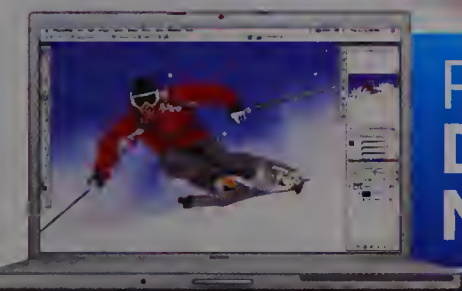


www.macworld.com | February 2007

The Mac Product Experts

29 Best Mac Products

We Pick the Hottest Hardware & Software



Reviewed: Core 2 Duo MacBooks, MacBook Pros



A Chrysler Building engineer, captured by Vincent Laforet.

Aperture Profile: Vincent Laforet,
LIFE magazine, Chrysler Building, New York, NY
*Vincent sets up for his shots, photographs a Chrysler Building
engineer at work, then uses Aperture to import, edit, catalog,
organize, retouch and publish his photos to his website, all
from the top of the Chrysler Building.*

To get the shot, Vincent Laforet battled vertigo, high winds and the pressure of an early deadline.

Atop Manhattan's famous Chrysler Building, routine maintenance is no easy task. Neither is capturing breathtaking photos of it. So with just a limited amount of time to shoot an engineer at work on one of the building's famous eagles, Vincent Laforet enlisted the help of Aperture™ and his MacBook™ Pro.

Only Aperture, the first all-in-one post-production tool for photographers, could help Vincent manage his entire workflow within such a narrow time frame.

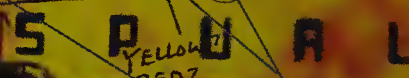
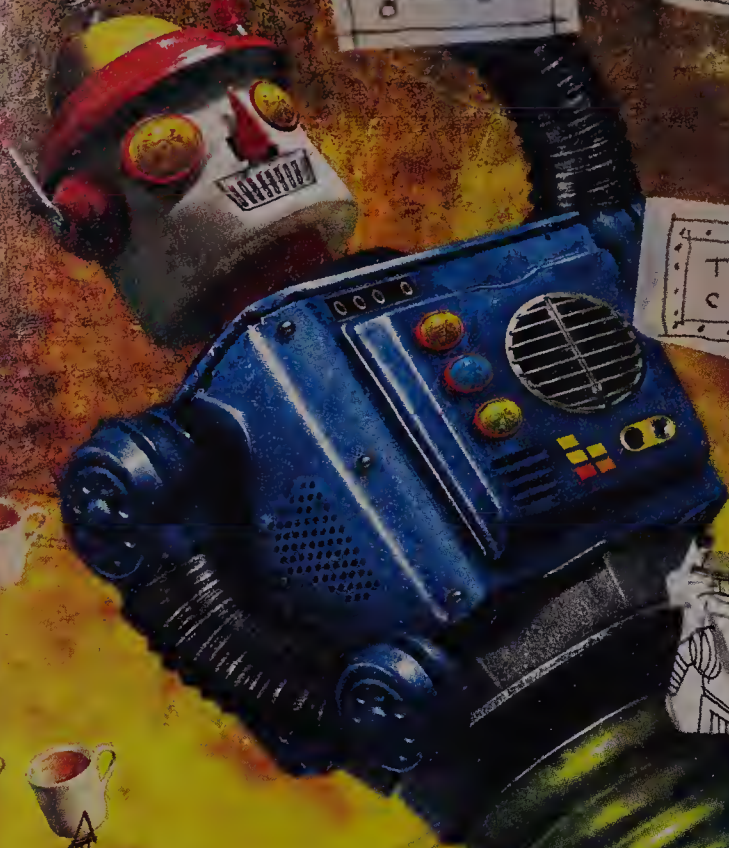
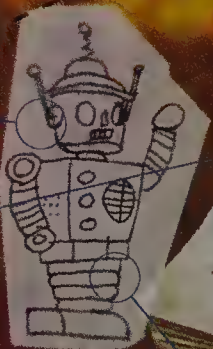
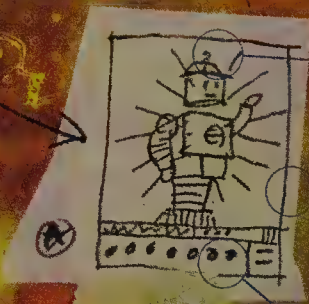
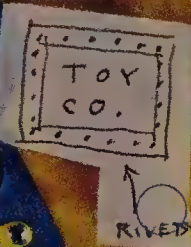
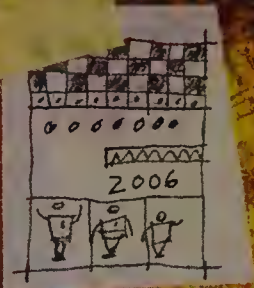
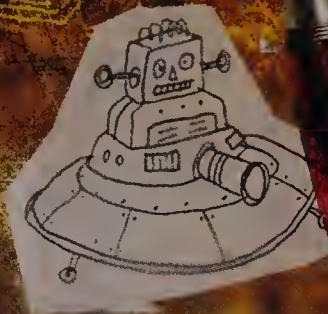
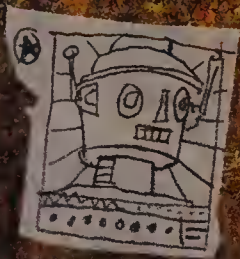
Working in RAW from start to finish, Vincent used Aperture to immediately catalog his shots as he took them, add important metadata, compare full-screen RAW photos with Aperture's Stacks and built-in Loupe, then publish the final photos to his website — all from a landing on the 61st floor. By the time the shoot was over, thanks to Aperture, Vincent knew with certainty he'd made the most of his one chance.

Aperture gives photographers the post-production tools they need to shoot with confidence from anywhere. Which is something Vincent Laforet appreciates when he's on the ground, up in the air or somewhere in between.

For more of this story and others, visit apple.com/aperture/profiles



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Step into the winners' circle. Macworld's editors and readers select the best and most-innovative products of 2006.

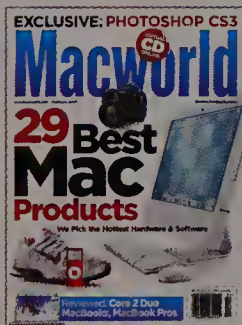
FEATURE

- 68 Decode the Web**
KIRK McELHEARN AND SARAH MILSTEIN
The Internet can be an invaluable resource for news, research, shopping, and more—assuming you know where to look. If you feel as though you spend more time searching than finding, don't fret. Our experts will show you how to quickly cut through the clutter and get the information you want, delivered right to your Mac.

58 THE EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS



68 DECODE THE WEB



On the Cover
Photography by Peter Belanger

OPINION

- 11 From the Editor's Desk**
JASON SNELL
Parallels Desktop for Mac is one of the most important products of the year. Here's why.

- 16 Feedback**
Readers respond.

REVIEWS



- 36 Apple professional laptops**
★★★★½ 15-inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz
★★★★½ 15-inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz



- 37 Apple consumer laptops**
★★★★½ 13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz
★★★★½ 13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/2.0GHz
★★★★½ 13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/2.0GHz (black)

- 38 Backup software**
★★★★ Backup 3.1
★★★★½ Data Backup 2.1
★★★★ Personal Backup X4 10.4.5
★★★★ Retrospect Desktop 6.1
★★★★½ Tri-Backup 4.0.4

- 48 More Reviews**

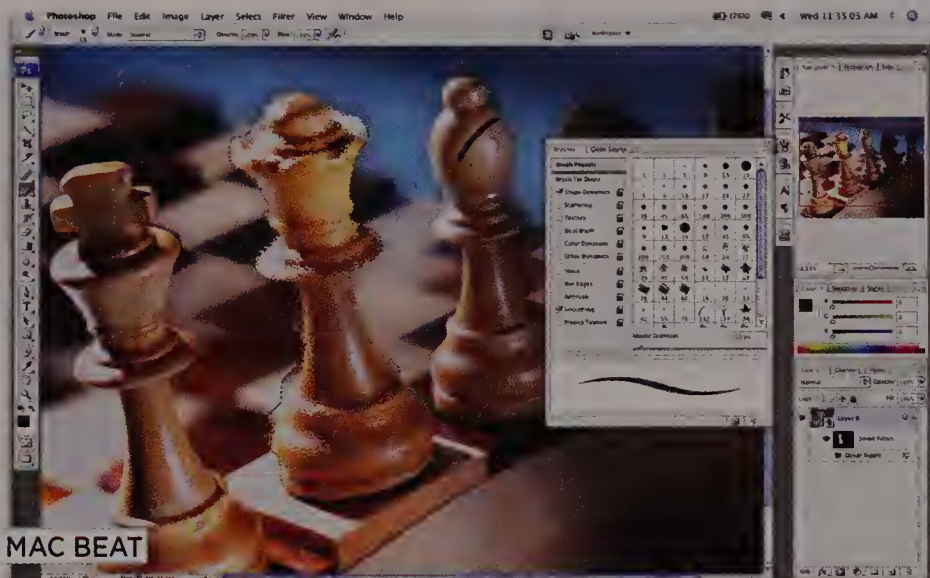
- 50 iPod Gear**

- 52 Mac Gems**
DAN FRAKES
Protect your laptop while sporting a new look, convert your favorite widgets into stand-alone applications, make iTunes do new things with easy-to-run scripts, and use your Mac to take power naps.

- 56 Top Products**

MAC BEAT

- 22** An exclusive look at the Photoshop CS3 beta, our predictions for 2007, cooler MacBooks and MacBook Pros, an interview with Will Shortz of the *New York Times*, iPod-airplane integration, and more.



22 MAC BEAT



80 WORKING MAC



132 HOT STUFF

The Virtual CD

> Google offers much more than just a search engine. It also has free tools for workgroups. Sarah Milstein details some of Google's lesser-known productivity features.

> Web productivity is also on Christopher Breen's mind. He returns to the Bungalow with more cool tips for getting the most out of your Web time.

> We also have the latest Macworld Podcast, online reviews, software updates, and the Best of Macworld.com.

<http://cd.macworld.com/2007/02/red-hut>



SECRETS

- 80** **WORKING MAC**
Easy Mac Backups
JOE KISSELL

The next version of OS X will include the backup software Time Machine, but who can afford to wait until then? Here's how to protect your data *now*.

- 82** **PLAYLIST**
The Podcast Listener's Guide
MATHEW HONAN

Thanks to podcasting, you aren't limited to local radio programs anymore. Check out the variety of audio and video podcasts available at the iTunes Store.

- 84** **DIGITAL PHOTO**
Make Massive Prints
BEN LONG

The next time you make a print of your favorite photo, don't settle for 8 by 10 inches. Supersize it.

- 86** **CREATE**
Customize Your DVDs
JIM HEID

Apple's iDVD software makes it easy to burn a movie onto a DVD. And with a little know-how, you can give your DVDs a professional touch.

- 88** **MOBILE MAC**
Upgrade Your Laptop
KYLE WIENS

Want to pep up your old iBook or PowerBook? Here's how to decide whether you should upgrade the RAM and hard drive.

- 90** **GEEK FACTOR**
3 Great Tricks for Geeks
CHRISTOPHER BREEN, ANDY IHNATKO, AND TED LANDAU

We have top-secret tips for saving time, taking e-mails on the go, and just plain figuring out who's been using your Mac.

- 92** **HELP DESK**
Mac OS X Hints
ROB GRIFFITHS

Cancel the Shut Down command, zip through podcast lists, drag and drop text to Dashboard widgets, add basic AppleScript support to applications that don't have it, and more.

- 96** **Mac 911**
CHRISTOPHER BREEN

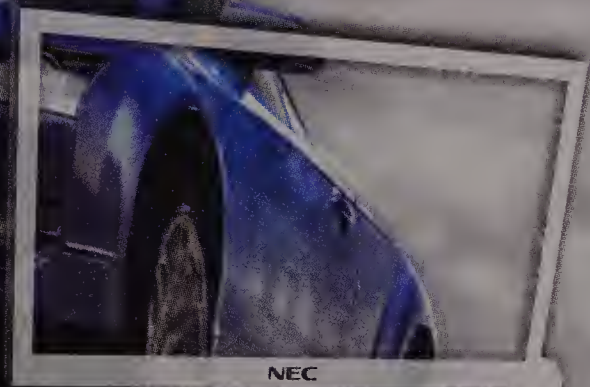
Switch from .Mac HomePage to iWeb, keep an eye on the kids' computing, edit videos on old VHS tapes, trim excess e-mail files, and more.

BACK PAGE

- 132** **Hot Stuff**
Check out our favorite new stuff.

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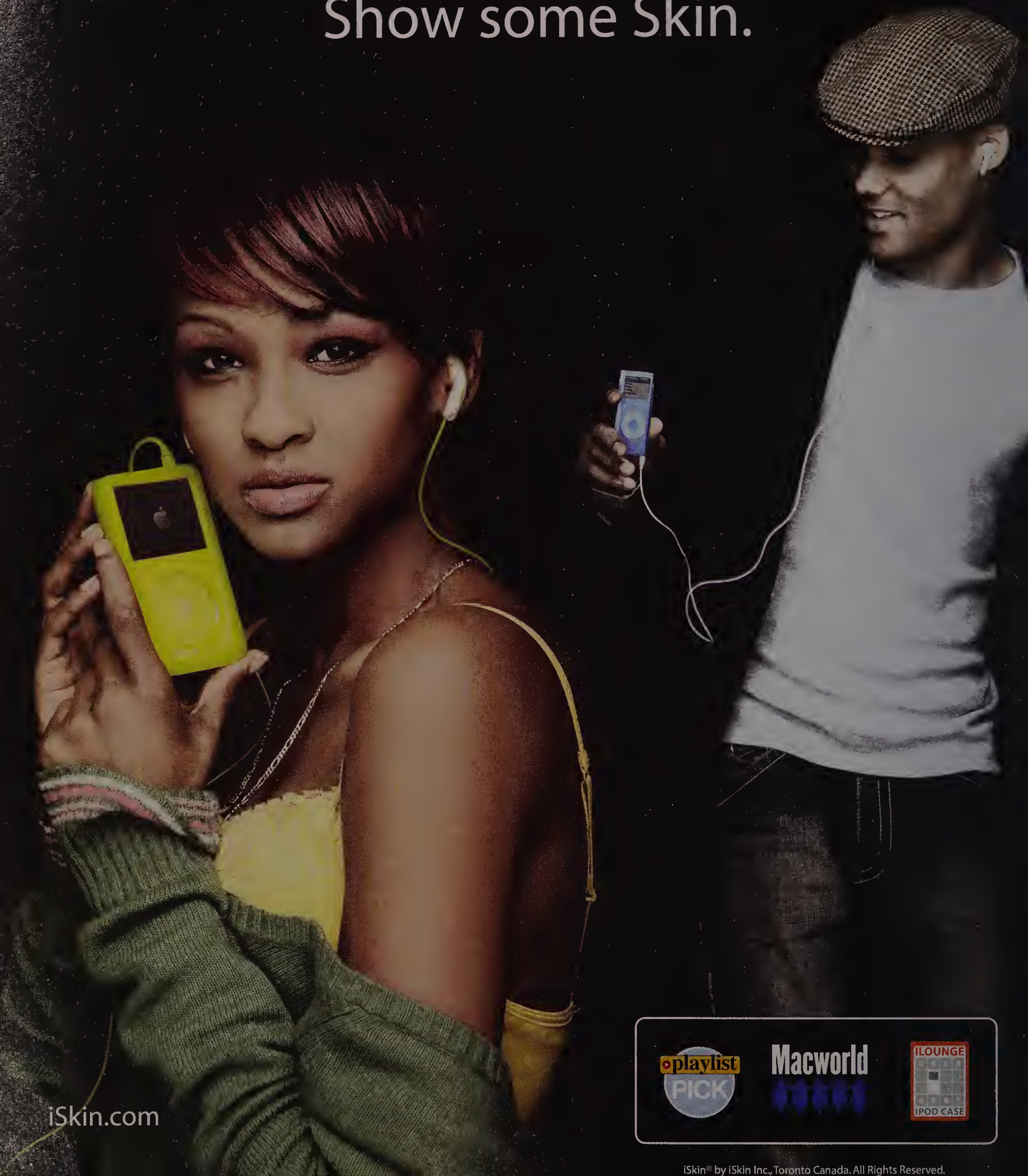


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Parallels Universe

If I needed an indicator that this whole Intel-Mac thing is opening new doors for Apple, I couldn't have asked for a better one than my Uncle Jim. He's a retired corporate executive who has always used Windows, at home and at work. And yet just the other day during a family visit, he asked me which MacBook he should buy.

He's clearly not alone. Thanks to Apple's year-old transition to Intel chips, lots of longtime Windows users are now thinking about buying Macs. It's not the Intel brand name that's attracting them, though: it's the Intel-based Mac's ability to run Windows software at native speeds.

My uncle has several relatives who are Mac users. Over the years, he's seen how easy Macs are to use, especially for his most important computer tasks—browsing the Web, reading and sending e-mail, and working with digital photographs. But he also wants to keep running some of his familiar Windows programs. In the old days, that would've kept him from switching to the Mac, but not anymore.

What Is It Good For?

Let me make one thing clear: I think Windows should be avoided whenever possible. But sometimes it can't be. Sometimes there's a program you simply can't use unless you're running Windows. For Mac users, that has always meant making a difficult choice: buy a PC, struggle along with slow emulation software (the one thing that's worse than running Windows is running it at one-quarter of its native speed), or just do without. Now we—Mac users, and PC users who couldn't switch because of that one last program holding them back—are all free to run Windows programs without having to *live* in Windows.

One of the most exciting developments of the past year has been the rise of Parallels Desktop, the software that lets you run Windows on Intel Macs at the same time you're running Mac OS X. A year ago, I had never even heard of it. But in the past eight months, *Macworld* editors, readers, and I have all been extremely impressed with the program. Not only did we name it one of this year's Eddy winners (see "The 22nd Annual Editors' Choice Awards" on page 58), but *Macworld* readers voted it their software product of the year.

While Apple's Boot Camp software was initially exciting, it just doesn't make as much sense as Parallels Desktop. What's the point of having a Mac if you're *just* running Windows on it? With Parallels Desktop, your Mac and Windows programs can run simultaneously.

Paradigm Shift

The clever programmers at Parallels haven't stopped, either. The company's most recent beta release features a mind-bending new feature called Coherence. When you're in Coherence mode, the Windows desktop disappears, and Windows programs float among your open Mac program windows. It's a major shift: in Coherence mode, you're not using Windows anymore; you're just using a few Windows programs in OS X.

Even in Coherence mode, of course, using Windows programs can still be an exercise in frustration. The keyboard shortcuts are different, the interface is weird, and the font handling leaves much to be desired. That's why I don't see the rise of Parallels as a threat to Mac software development. Whenever possible, Mac users will still want native Mac applications.

But running Windows programs in Parallels, especially in Coherence mode, will do in a pinch. Just to prove my point, I've written this entire column in a beta version of Microsoft Word 2007 for Windows. In the background, I can see my Mac programs running happily, and I can switch to them with ease. I wouldn't want to work like this all the time. But I can certainly put up with it when I must use Windows software.

Strange New Landscape

I can't wait to see how this will all play out in 2007. Windows Vista will arrive, Parallels Desktop will likely acquire more features, and VMWare (the leading provider of virtualization software on PCs) will probably release its own competitor to Parallels. Then there's the forthcoming release of both Mac and Windows versions of Microsoft Office 2007.

We are entering an exciting new phase in the Mac's life. Today the old excuses for not using a Mac just don't ring true anymore. Just ask my Uncle Jim, if you can tear him away from his new MacBook. □

What do you think? Know anyone who bought a Mac because of its ability to run Windows? Have you tried out Parallels? Come over to macworld.com/forums and let me know.

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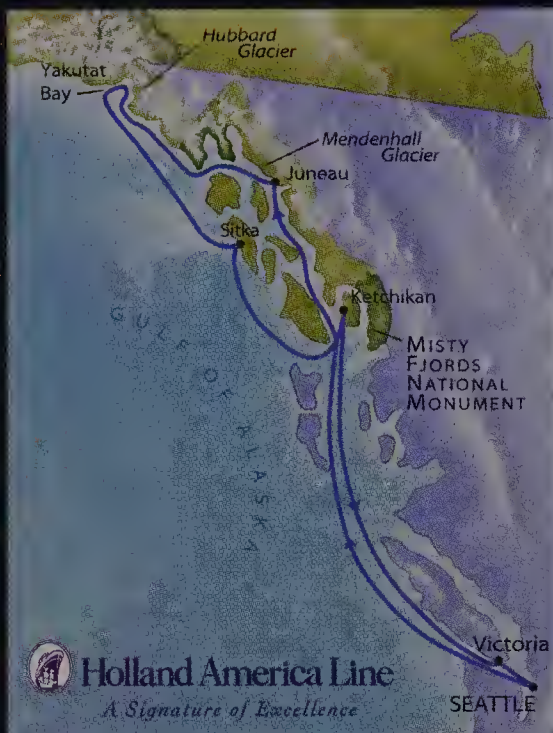
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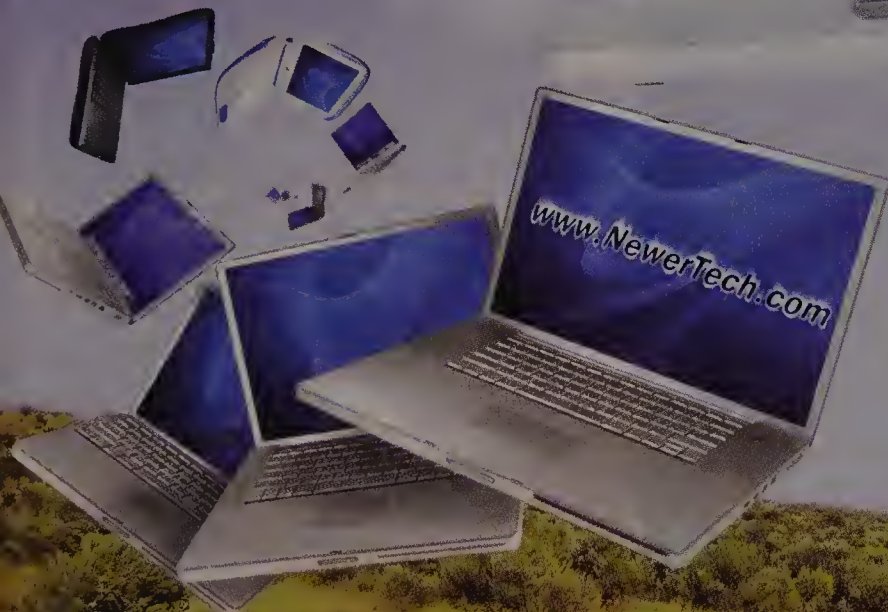
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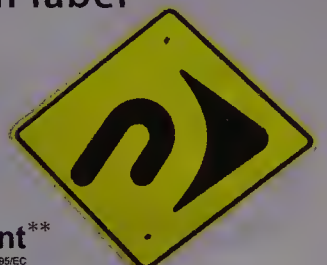
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FEEDBACK

To Your Health

When we were first considering doing a guide to computer ergonomics (“Macworld’s Guide to Healthy Computing,” November 2006), a story we’ve done many times over the years, we had to ask ourselves: “Is there anything new to say about it?” The answer, we decided, was that yes, there were some new tools out there to help you use your Mac without risking your health. More important, it’s a topic we should be covering regularly. Judging from the responses we got to the article, you seemed to agree on both counts. □

Ergonomic Advisers

KARIM CHRISTOPHER

Thanks for the article on ergonomics (“Macworld’s Guide to Healthy Computing,” November 2006). In their rush to create the latest, greatest products, hardware and software companies forget that their customers are real, live human beings. I hope more companies realize the need to build physically comfortable products. With headline articles like yours, the message is getting across.

PARRISH S. KNIGHT

Thank you for your excellent article on RSIs. I’d like to point out one cause of RSIs for Mac OS X users that you didn’t mention: the way the mouse moves. In OS 9 and earlier, that mouse motion always felt completely natural. But in OS X, the cursor seems to accelerate and decelerate strangely. Many people—myself included—must use their hand and wrist muscles in unnatural ways to compensate, and that effort can hurt. In my case, after 20 to 30 minutes, I’m in so much pain I can’t use the mouse at all. As far as I can tell, no setting in the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane will correct this problem. Fortunately, a number of third-party alternatives can. I use one called USB Overdrive (\$20; www.usboverdrive.com). It takes a while to get the settings right, but once you do, the mouse is a joy to use again. My hand and wrist pain has completely disappeared.

GREGG WILLIAMS

As a writer who has permanent RSI in both hands, I applaud your recent article on healthy computing, about which I’d like to make two comments. One is to suggest another excellent head-mounted mouse replacement: NaturalPoint’s Smart

NAV; I’d recommend buying it from RJ Cooper and Associates (\$200; rjcooper.com/smartnav), which supplies OS 9 and OS X drivers for the hardware. My second comment is about MacSpeech’s iListen software: I’ve found it woefully inadequate. My alternative is to use Nuance’s Dragon NaturallySpeaking software (\$100; www.nuance.com) on a PC that I’ve connected to my Mac through a VNC connection; the PC then becomes a glorified mouse and keyboard.

Dangerous Raids

JOE VANZANDT

In your article about the Mac Pro (“Inside the Mac Pro,” November 2006), you point out that the expanded disk capacity of the Mac Pro makes it possible to speed up the machine by instituting RAID 0 (striping) among multiple disks in the machine. While it’s true that striping can increase the speed on disk reads and writes, it’s also an inherently risky setup: if one disk fails, you may not be able to access data from *any* of them. While this is generally a remote possibility, it’s definitely a real danger. If you use striping, it’s more important than ever to back up critical data regularly.

DAN GOLDENBERG

In the article “Inside the Mac Pro,” Jonathan Seff calls mirrored RAID “an up-to-the-minute backup.” But a mirrored RAID only gives you data *redundancy*. It won’t do you any good if a file or directory becomes corrupt; it will only create an up-to-the-minute copy of that corrupted file or directory, giving you two drives with the same faulty data. You won’t have a true backup until you create an offsite copy of the mirrored disks’ contents.

How Fast Is FileMaker?

JERRY WEIR

There’s a big error in your review of FileMaker Pro 8.5 (November 2006). Your reviewer quotes the company as having stated that “version 8.5 is up to two times faster than FMP 8 on a PowerPC Mac.” That statement is not true, nor is that what FileMaker claims. What the company *does* claim is that version 8.5 will run two times faster on an *Intel-based Mac* than FileMaker Pro 8 ran on a PowerPC. So yes, if I upgrade my computer as well as my version of FileMaker, then 8.5 will run two times faster than 8.0. There’s a huge difference between those two statements.

Sorry for the confusion. We should have made that distinction clearer.—Dan Miller

Parallels Universe

AMI SPERBER

In the article “Design for Any Browser” (*Create*, November 2006), David Sawyer McFarland suggests a way to return to full-screen mode in Parallels, by installing and configuring VirtueDesktops. I have been using a much simpler method to do the same thing: in Parallels’ full-screen mode, I simply press ⌘-H to hide Parallels. When I want to return to Parallels, I click on its icon in the Dock and immediately return to full-screen mode.

Pop Goes the Gmail

PAUL APPLGATE

In “Get More from Mail” (*Working Mac*, November 2006), Joe Kissell mentions adding a POP3 account to Gmail, but fails to mention the most important part: enabling POP3 access in the Gmail Web

continues



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interface. To do so, choose Settings, then Forwarding And POP, and choose your option. Now you can follow his setup instructions and POP your Gmail.

You're absolutely right, I should have mentioned that. I enabled POP access on my own Gmail account so long ago that I completely forgot the option isn't turned on automatically. Luckily, it takes about two mouse clicks to do it.—Joe Kissell

On the Road Again

NEAL GALLAGHER

As a prolific photographer, who backs up gigabytes at a time when I'm out in the field, let me add two comments to your story "Back Up Photos on the Road" (*Digital Photo*, November 2006). First, the Apple iPod Camera Connector is a battery hog: it'll suck your iPod's battery dry before you've downloaded a full 4GB memory card. Second, you missed my favorite online photo backup service, phanfare.com. It has wonderful options and great, iPhoto-compatible software that allows me to download entire

albums directly out of iPhoto, all in the background. It's definitely worth a look.

Thumb Drives, Ha!

ALBERT REINGEWIRTZ

About your column in November on portable applications ("Your Apps in Your Pocket," *Mobile Mac*): I recently spent a week in New York and carried full-fledged copies of all my apps with me. I brought all my data and configuration files with me, too. But I didn't use a thumb drive: I used a 2.5-inch, 100GB portable hard drive. Not only does it carry more, it's bootable and FireWire-capable. It makes no sense to promote thumb drives when external hard drives are capable of so much more.

A Better Way to Share

LEON NELSON

In "Better Living through iPhoto Sharing" (*Mac 911*, November 2006), Christopher Breen described several elaborate ways to move pictures from one Mac to another. I prefer a simpler

method: On computer number one, select the pictures to move (even the entire library), and copy them to a folder on the desktop (I called mine PicMove). Next, copy this folder to a portable hard drive that's connected to the USB port. Now, on computer number two, create a new iPhoto album (I called mine From Portable). Plug the portable hard drive into computer two's USB port, and copy the PicMove folder to the From Portable album. You've copied all the pictures from computer one to two. I think this is the simplest, best way to move pictures from one Mac to another.

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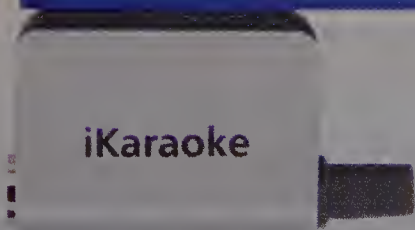
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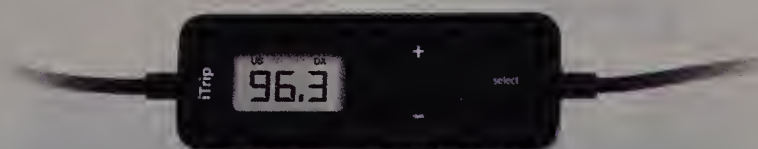
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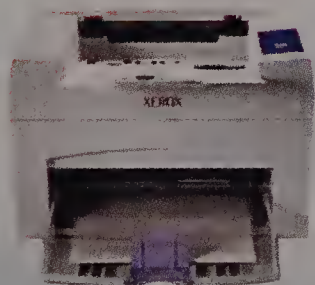
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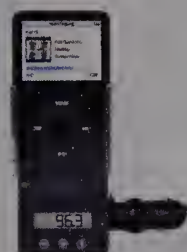
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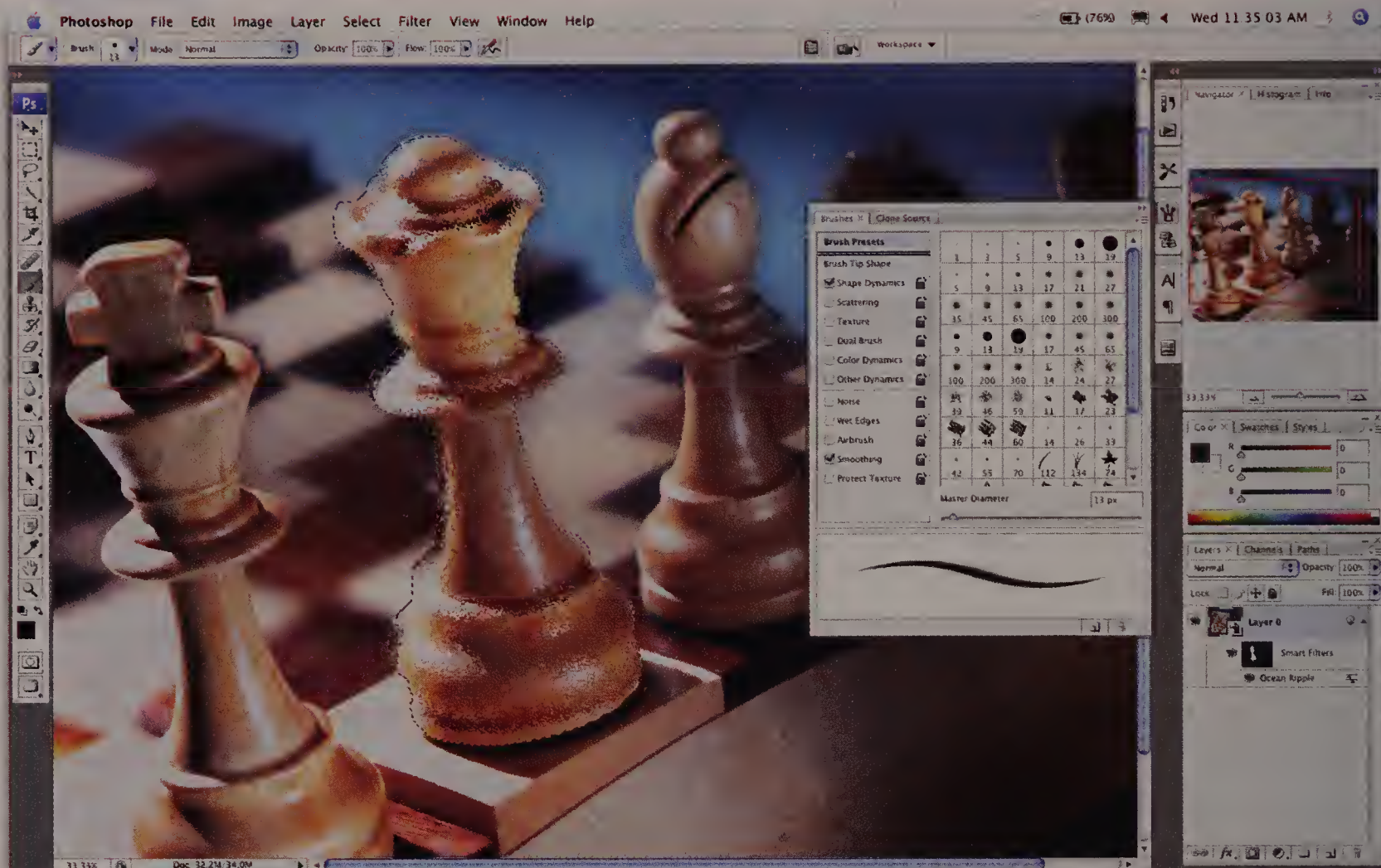
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WHAT'S NEW

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE

WHAT'S HOT



Photoshop CS3 Beta Arrives

Adobe Gives Graphics Pros an Early Version of Intel-Native App

BY BEN LONG

In ordinary times, Adobe products see the light of day only when they're ready to land on retail shelves. But with Apple's transition to the Intel processor complete and the release of Adobe Creative Suite 3 still months away, Adobe has taken the unusual step of putting a free beta version of Photoshop CS3 in customers' hands now. (The 750MB Photoshop CS3 beta, which will expire when CS3 ships sometime in spring 2007, is available at labs.adobe.com for registered Photoshop CS2 users.)

In addition to native compatibility with Intel-based Macs, the Photoshop CS3 beta also packs a large selection of impor-

tant new features, including interface changes, nondestructive filters, easier compositing, improvements to Camera Raw, and a completely redesigned version of Bridge, Adobe's companion file browser (for more on Camera Raw and Bridge, see the longer version of this story at macworld.com/2439).

In my tests, the Photoshop CS3 beta was very stable and showed much-improved performance on both Intel- and PowerPC-based Macs. In terms of the interface, the program's core features remain the same, so the transition should be easy for experienced users (though the beta doesn't yet have all the final features in place).

Performance Boosts

Although the program is loaded with many new features, most users—particularly those who've bought an Intel Mac or are contemplating such a purchase—will initially be curious about performance on Mac Pros, MacBook Pros, and other Intel-based machinery. Overall, the news is very good: most operations receive some improvement while other functions realize a substantial gain. In my tests, launching the application was more than twice as fast as launching CS2; it clocked in at 20 seconds on a 2GHz Intel Core Duo MacBook Pro, compared with 50 seconds for starting up CS2. Running the Sharpen and Blur filters was also more than twice as fast

in CS3, and I found that these numbers scaled consistently with larger images. Other operations, such as CMYK conversion and resizing with bicubic interpolation, were only faster by a second or two, however. The Macworld Lab is doing formal benchmarks on the public beta, the results of which should be published on Macworld.com by the time you read this.

Updated Interface

Upon launching, the first thing veteran Photoshop users will notice is the new palette look. The program still offers a docking mechanism for nesting palettes into tabbed collections, but CS3 moves the palettes that used to reside in the toolbar into a second palette dock that sits next to the original dock on the right side of the screen. With a second dock, each tab collection is roomier.

Photoshop's interface has been verging on palette-heavy for a while, so Adobe has added the ability for the user to collapse a dock full of palettes into a collection of smaller icons.

For people using small displays, the ability to collapse palettes is particularly useful, while Photoshop users with large displays will probably appreciate the second dock, which lets them see more palettes at once.

One bug in the beta involves the cursor display. When running CS3 on an Intel Mac, the painting-brush cursor's size displays improperly or the cursor is missing altogether. Adobe plans to fix this problem by the time Photoshop CS3 is actually released.

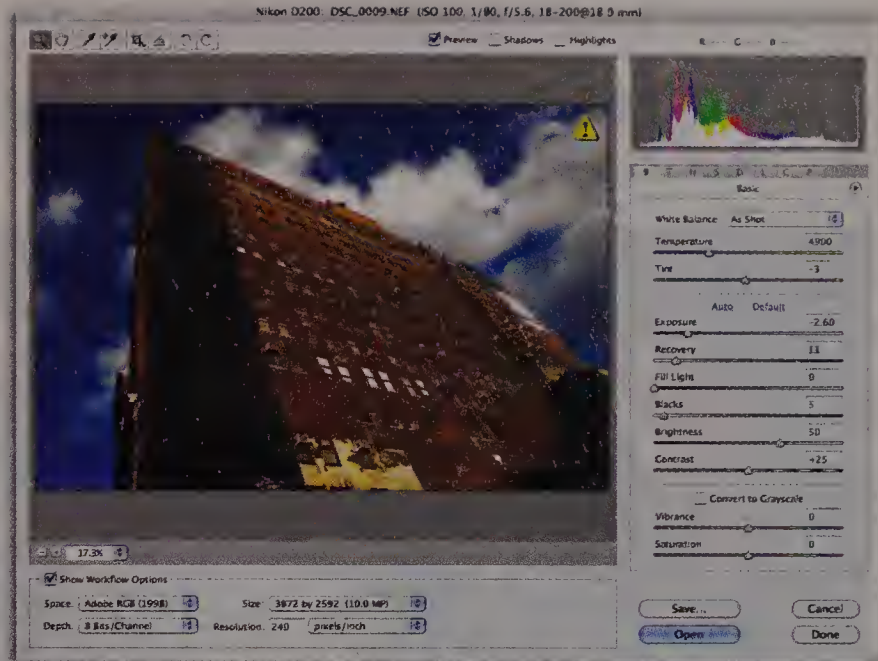
Improved Editing

When Adobe added Adjustment Layers to Photoshop 4 in 1996, it introduced the practice of non-destructive image editing. With Photoshop CS3, you can now attach any filter—Unsharp Mask, for example—to a layer as a smart filter in the same way that Layer Styles are added to a layer.

The advantage of a smart filter over a regular filter is that you can hide or delete a smart filter to disable or remove its effect, or you can double-click on a smart filter's name to change its parameters at any time. Smart filters also have built-in layer masks, just like Adjustment Layers, so you can interactively paint a mask to constrain the effects of your smart filters.

While many effects in Photoshop are still destructive—cropping, mode changes, and resizing, to name a few—the addition of smart filters should appease many Photoshop users who've been frustrated by the fact that once they apply a filter they can't alter or undo that action later.

People who do a lot of image retouching with Photoshop's Rubber Stamp tool will welcome the new Clone Source



Adjust Here Camera Raw adds features from Photoshop Lightroom.

palette, which lets you change the clone source numerically, store multiple clone sources, or view the clone source as a semitransparent overlay.

Making selections is a big part of many retouching tasks, from compositing to localized correction and filtering. To make this task easier—both in terms of speed and accuracy—Photoshop CS3 adds a new Quick Selection brush, which lets you select an object simply by brushing over it. As you brush, the program analyzes your image to determine which pixels in the region need to be selected.

No matter which selection tools you use, the new Refine Edge palette (which replaces the Feather Selection command) lets you interactively apply feathering to soften the edge of a selection, and then expand and contract the selection. The new Radius slider can often significantly improve the accuracy of your selection.

Many other changes and improvements abound throughout the program. For example, the Curves window adds a Preset feature as well as black-and-white point sliders, and a new Black & White option gives you a six-channel color mixer for black and white adjustments.

Even with the final software months away, it's clear from this beta that Adobe is well on its way to releasing a greatly improved version of Photoshop. □



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BEN LONG is a San Francisco-based writer and photographer. He is also the author of *Getting Started with Camera Raw* (Peachpit Press, 2006).

MACWORLD'S SEVENTH ANNUAL LOOK AT THE YEAR AHEAD

Fortune-Tellers



Not even Steve Jobs knows everything that will occur in the world of Macs in 2007. But that needn't stop us from making our own predictions. So this year we asked Senior Editor Christopher Breen, Senior Contributor Adam C. Engst, John Gruber of the Daring Fireball blog (daringfireball.net), former *Macworld* columnist and *Chicago Sun-Times* technology and computer columnist Andy Ihnatko, and John Moltz of the Crazy Apple Rumors Site (www.crazyapplerrumors.com) to tell us what they think 2007 will bring.

2007's Most Significant New Hardware

Breen: Other—as in hardware other than computers. This could include an iPhone, a wide-screen iPod, or the iTV.

Engst: I'd like to say the iTV, but it's as yet unclear how large an impact it will have, given that many people are clearly happy already with watching video on their Macs or iPods, and making a better connection between a Mac and a TV may simply not be sufficiently compelling. AirPort Express is cool, but it didn't change the world. Were I to venture further out on the limb, I'd predict new hardware designs for at least the iMac and the MacBook Pro, with the Mac mini and the Mac Pro potentially in line as well.

Gruber: An Apple-branded mobile phone. I'm torn between whether such a device will be its own new brand, or whether it'll be branded as an iPod with phone capabilities. But I think 2007 is the year this will happen, and I think it's going to be big news.

Ihnatko: Apple's wireless iPods. The iPod is the tail that wags the dog; any change that Apple makes to the iPod

winds up in the pockets, purses, and belts of the entire world, and unlike Zune and its “why even bother?” Wi-Fi features, Apple will make the iPod's wireless features compelling, relevant, and instantly transformative.

Moltz: The Apple iPhone, and it will have only one button.

2007's Most Significant New Software

Breen: The software that manages Other—a new version of iTunes.

Engst: Leopard, without question. Just the features that have been previewed so far would be sufficient to give it the nod, and Steve Jobs implied there were more features coming as well. That said, Leopard faces the same challenge that Tiger faced and, for many people, failed to meet. If, like me, you find Spotlight useless, can't figure out anything useful to run in Dashboard, don't use Mail, and have little use for Automator, Tiger doesn't offer much more than Panther did. Boot Camp, Time Machine, Spaces, and Dashboard's Web Clip certainly sound useful, but whether they will

prove to be so in real-world use remains to be seen.

Gruber: Can I just say Leopard? If so, that's my answer. If I need to be more specific, I'd say Safari 3.0.

Ihnatko: The most significant software has to be the Universal editions of Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite. They're the last pieces of the Intel transition, and I'm sick and tired of living in a world where the fastest Photoshop machines are Windows boxes.

Moltz: iTunes 8, which will be able to find a song for you if you just say “You know that song, the one that goes ‘Baaaah, dah-dah-dah-dah! Bah-dah-duh-dun!’ What song is that?”

2007's Biggest Mac News

Breen: Apple and the Other. See, I'm sticking to a theme. 2007 is the year Apple makes a bigger plunge into the media business and, through iTunes integration with the iPhone, begins to have an impact in the telecommunications business as well.

Engst: My money is on it being an overall story of Apple's resurgence in the computer market, driven by the combi-

continues

Readers Weigh In

We asked Macworld.com forum members to share their predictions for 2007. Here are the top 12:

1. iLife '07
2. Blu-ray drives on Macs
3. New iSight camera and Cinema Displays with built-in iSights
4. iTunes Store expands its movies beyond Disney offerings
5. iPhone
6. Wide-screen, touch-sensitive iPods
7. Intel-native Adobe Creative Suite 3
8. Quad-core Mac
9. iWork '07 with a spreadsheet application
10. Smaller MacBooks or a tablet Mac
11. 802.11n wireless networking in Macs
12. Expanded Final Cut Studio and/or Final Cut Express Studio



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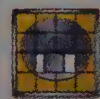
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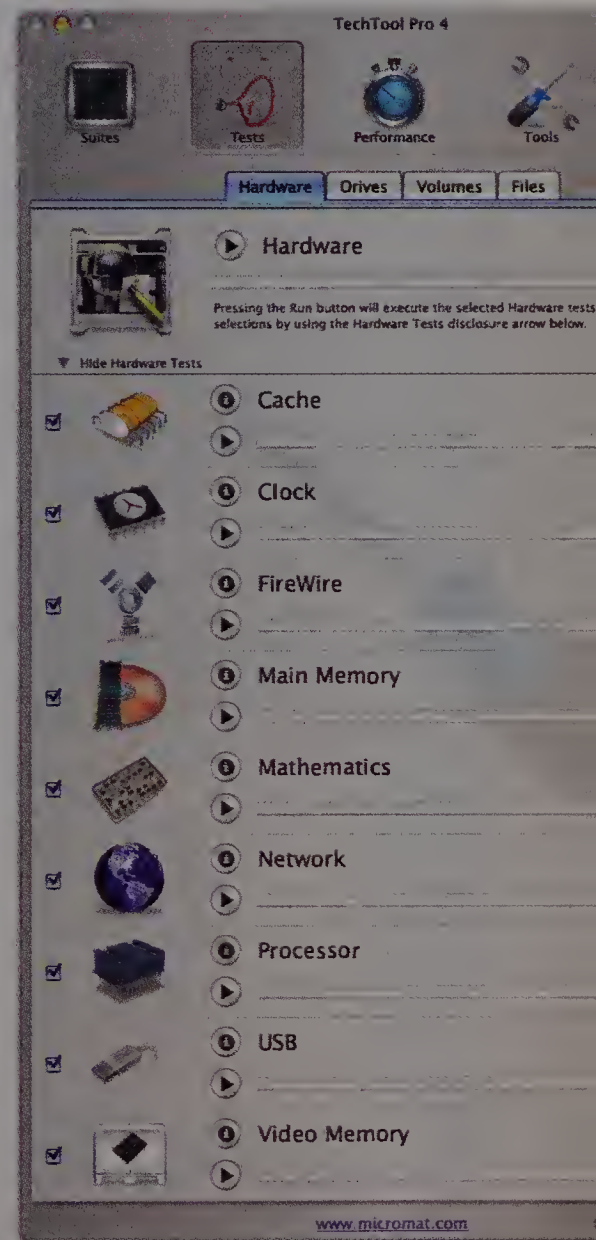
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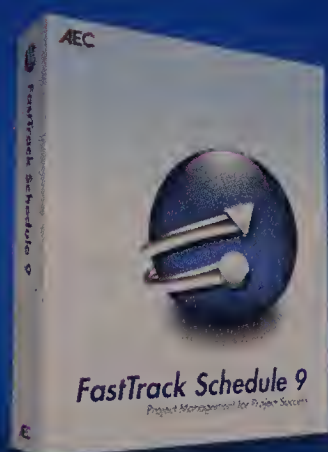
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nation of great native hardware and software, full Windows compatibility, and the iPod's continuing halo effect. We've seen record profits from Apple this year, but once Windows compatibility isn't something that needs to be added on, I think even more people will be buying Macs. The real question is, what will Apple do with all that money?

Gruber: The release of OS X 10.5. What's going to make Leopard such a big deal is that there are so many different new things in it. It's packaged and presented as a single new product, but it's really a collection of dozens of new and updated components. Everything from Safari to

iChat and iCal is getting a significant overhaul. It's a horrible cliché, but there really is something in it for everyone.

Ihnatko: Apple carefully and cannily licenses some of its technology to consumer-electronics makers, not to transplant iTunes and Mac experiences onto third-party electronics, but to extend Apple's influence into a broader range of devices.

Moltz: The biggest news will be Steve Jobs leaving Apple. After several hours of garment-rendering and wailing from the Mac community, the event will end anticlimactically as Jobs returns, having apparently just gone out for a soy latte. □

When Will It Happen?

There are many items we all know (or at least think we know) are coming down the pike. The big question is when, so we asked our experts to guess the timing for five forthcoming hardware and software products.

Leopard

Breen: April.

Engst: June.

Gruber: June.

Ihnatko: May, so it can help boost sales to the education market.

Moltz: After screenshots of all the supercool features have already been leaked on the Internet, ruining a good time for everyone.

iTV

Breen: March.

Engst: February.

Gruber: February. They'll start taking orders after the Expo keynote, though.

Ihnatko: It's just waiting for the 802.11n Wi-Fi standard to settle down. My guess is May.

Moltz: When you kids finish your homework and not a minute before! I don't care when your show starts!

Adobe Creative Suite 3

Breen: Summer.

Engst: June.

Gruber: June.

Ihnatko: First quarter; Photoshop CS3 is already in beta.

Moltz: Just in time for you to drive your brand-new hover car to the Apple Store on Mars to pick up a copy.

An Eight-Core Mac

Breen: January.

Engst: If a Mac Pro does come out with eight

cores, I'd expect it in October, presumably after Leopard and some applications that provide support for all those cores in a real way come out.

Gruber: January.

Ihnatko: It's a toss-up, but I think WWDC is a safe bet.

Moltz: Never! Four cores should be enough for anyone. In my day, we only had one core and we had to crank-start—hey, where are you going? Come back here!

Wide-Screen iPod

Breen: Spring.

Engst: September, in time for the holiday buying season.

Gruber: September.

Ihnatko: Late in the year (October, say), if at all. I still haven't seen evidence that Apple's actually buying parts or readying manufacturing. And the iTV has taken a lot of the steam out of the "any day now" wide-screen iPod rumors. Without iTV, one has to wonder why Apple has moved into movies so aggressively if not to support an iPod that makes video a more sumptuous and indulgent experience. With the iTV, online movies and TV shows have someplace to go; maybe Apple will just steer iPod users to those paperback-sized screens that you slide your iPod into for longer battery life and a bigger display.

Moltz: Five minutes after the next time Steve Jobs says, "Oh, there's just one more thing. . ."



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TIMES PUZZLE EDITOR IS A LONGTIME MAC USER

Interview: Will Shortz

Will Shortz is the crossword editor of the *New York Times*, the puzzle master for National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Sunday*, the founder and director of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, and the only person in the world with a college degree in Enigmatology (the study of puzzles). And anyone with a keen eye who has watched the 2006 puzzle documentary *Wordplay* (www.wordplaythemovie.com) also knows that Shortz is a Mac user. —JONATHAN SEFF



What's your history with the Mac?

I'm a big Macintosh fan and have always worked with Macs. I started out with one at *Games* magazine in the late 1980s and have always had one since.

How do Macs fit into your *Times* workflow?

I typeset the *New York Times* crosswords on

them, and really do everything with them. Right now I'm using a special program, *New York Times* proprietary software, for typesetting the crosswords in Quark[XPress], but we're just about to change over to [Adobe] InDesign.

How else do you use Macs in your work?

I also direct the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament—which includes typesetting and laying out the crosswords for the tournament that, believe

it or not, I still use [Adobe] PageMaker for. As soon as InDesign is up and running for me, I plan to switch everything over to it. Also, there's a brochure that goes out to crossword people every year for the tournament, and that's laid out and designed on my Mac. Once I switch to OS X exclusively, I guess I couldn't even possibly run the PageMaker program anymore—which is another reason I'll be using InDesign.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beatles Coming to iTunes?

According to a *Fortune* story, Apple and the Beatles are finally nearing a deal that would put the Fab Four's music on the iTunes Store—marking the first time the Beatles have allowed digital downloads of their music. "It would certainly be a trophy," says Ross Rubin, director of analysis at market-research firm NPD Group. "[Steve] Jobs has publicly professed his admiration for the Beatles and their music. This is the kind of fan base that really leads to a lot of possibilities." Apple declined to comment, but a deal may be worked out by the time you read this.



loophole that makes it legal for U.K. retailers to sell certain types of FM transmitters, but technically illegal for most people to use them. The approved devices must conform to a specification that sets a power limit for FM transmitters and requires devices to scan for a clear channel to avoid interference. Other European Union countries are in the process of adopting the specification.

Sony Finds Digital Camera CCD Problems

Problems with the CCD (charge-coupled device)



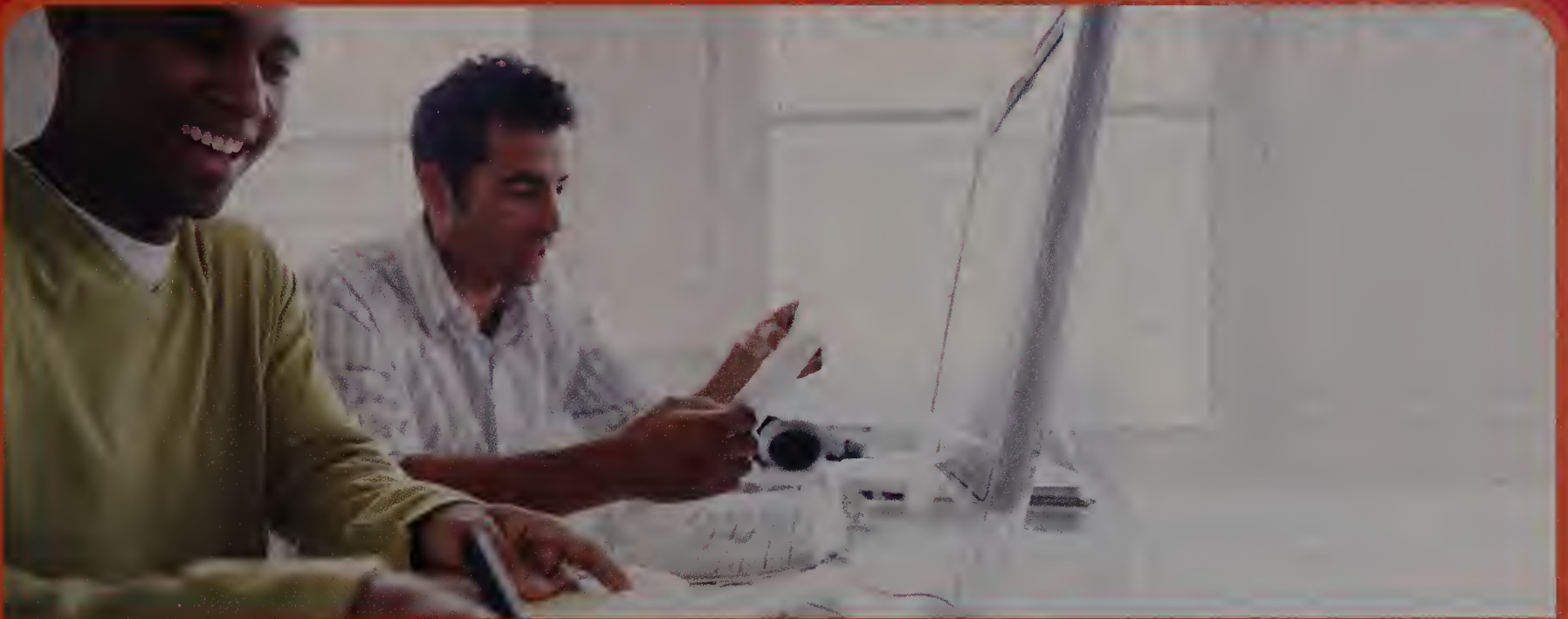
in some of Sony's cameras could result in the inability to take clear pictures or any photos at all, according to the company. The CCD found in the DSC-F88, DSC-M1, DSC-T1, DSC-T11, DSC-T3, DSC-T33, DSC-U40, and DSC-U50 models, sold worldwide between September 2003 and January 2005, could become faulty. Problems have generally been reported by users in countries where the weather is hot, says Tomio Takizawa, a spokesman for the company. Sony will repair the camera at no charge if it shows the problem.

FM Transmitters OK in the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has decided to allow the use of low-power FM transmitters that stream tunes from a portable music player to a car stereo. The amendment, made in December 2006 under the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1949, fixed a quirky

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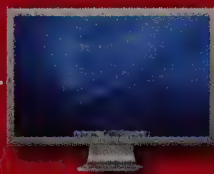
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CORE 2 DUO REDUCES HEAT IN SOME MACBOOK AND MACBOOK PRO MODELS

Cooler Laptops?

Since their respective releases in 2006, Apple's MacBook and MacBook Pro laptops have been hot items. Now that both have been updated with Core 2 Duo processors, Mac users are hoping that the laptops are a little less hot in one area in particular—their laps. So we decided to test their temperatures to see what (if any) difference the new processors made in the heat output of these models.

Using the surface probe of an infrared thermometer, we measured external temperatures in the same hot spots—the bar above the function keys and the area surrounding the battery—on the three MacBook models and both 15-inch MacBook Pro models. We also ran Jonathan Pepin's free Core-DuoTemp to test the internal tempera-

tures of these Intel-based Mac laptops. (For complete results of our tests, see macworld.com/2402 for the MacBooks and macworld.com/2401 for the MacBook Pros.)

The switch from the Core Duo processor to Intel's next-generation Core 2



Duo slightly reduced the 2.16GHz MacBook Pro's persistent fever. However, the 2.33GHz MacBook Pro got just as hot as its Core Duo counter-

parts—topping out at 116.6 degrees (Fahrenheit) near the battery and 178 degrees internally.

The MacBooks, on the other hand, saw external temperatures drop by five degrees around the battery. The white 2GHz MacBook (the warmest of the bunch) peaked at 95.4 degrees near the battery and 101.5 degrees above the keyboard, well below the black Core Duo MacBook's high. Internal temperatures were the same for the 2GHz Core Duo MacBooks and the 2GHz Core 2 Duo models.

Although the MacBook's heat drops are more significant, these results show improvement in the MacBook Pro's system-cooling technology when you consider the Core 2 Duo's superior speed and power—a definite step in the right direction.—BRIAN CHEN

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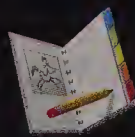
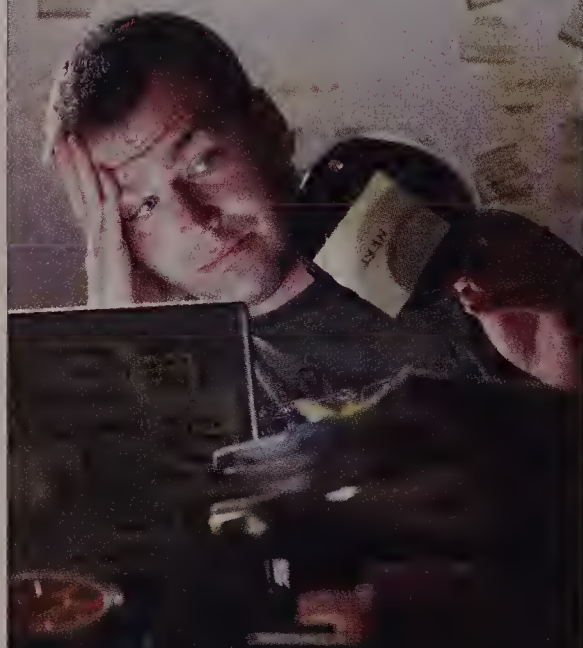
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PLAYERS TO INTEGRATE WITH IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

iPod in the Sky

Already the perfect companion for a long flight, the iPod is set to get even better, as Apple announced plans to team up with several major international airlines to integrate iPods with their in-flight entertainment systems. The airlines, including Continental, Delta, Emirates, and United, will soon offer iPod seat connections to charge and power iPods in-flight, and to allow the iPods to display video content on seat-back monitors.

The airplanes outfitted with iPod connectivity will feature 30-pin dock connectors in the seat. Once they're plugged in, the systems will charge up the iPod's battery and provide users with the ability to listen to music. For those aircraft that feature personal seat-back monitors, you'll be able to watch video from your

fifth-generation iPod on the larger screen, too.

Apple expects in-flight iPod connectivity to be available beginning in mid-2007.

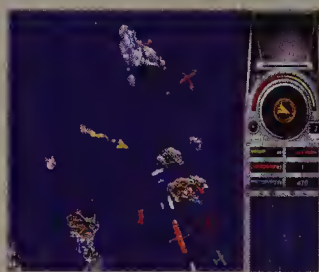
After the announcement, Reuters reported that two other airlines Apple mentioned as partners—Air France and KLM—disputed Apple's assertion. An Air France spokesperson said "it's way too early to confirm" any details, and while a KLM spokesman agreed that his company had "informal contacts" with Apple, he likewise said it was "very premature" to announce a deal. An Apple spokesperson responded that Apple "clearly had a miscommunication with Air France and KLM" but was excited about seeing iPod connectivity on other airlines.—PETER COHEN



GAME NEWS

WingNuts Goes Free

Freeverse Software has made its game WingNuts: Temporal Navigator available as a free download. The previously \$20 game is a PowerPC-only app that runs natively in Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X. WingNuts puts you in the pilot's seat of a time-traveling aircraft as you go after the evil (but wacky) Baron von Schtopwatch and his legions of robot-controlled aircraft as they plague the skies of various eras (download at macworld.com/2408).



ment has released a free trial edition that lets you play the massive multiplayer online role-playing game for ten days. The download is several gigabytes, however, so if you're not on a fast, reliable connection, you may want to check your local retailer for a cheap demo disk, which is also in circulation.

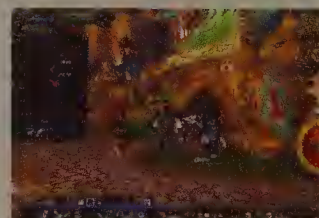
Victoria Expansion Pack Released

Virtual Programming (www.vpltd.com) has released a \$15 expansion pack for Victoria: An Empire Under the Sun called Victoria: Revolutions. The turn-based-strategy game focuses on the British Empire during the reign of Queen Victoria and shortly thereafter. The expansion pack includes 15 extra years of game play (taking you up to right before World War II), reworks the technology tree and election and politics system, overhauls the military system, and introduces new economic elements.—PETER COHEN



Blizzard Offers Free World of Warcraft Demo

If you've wanted to play World of Warcraft (www.worldofwarcraft.com) but haven't felt like plunking down money for the game, rejoice: Blizzard Entertainment





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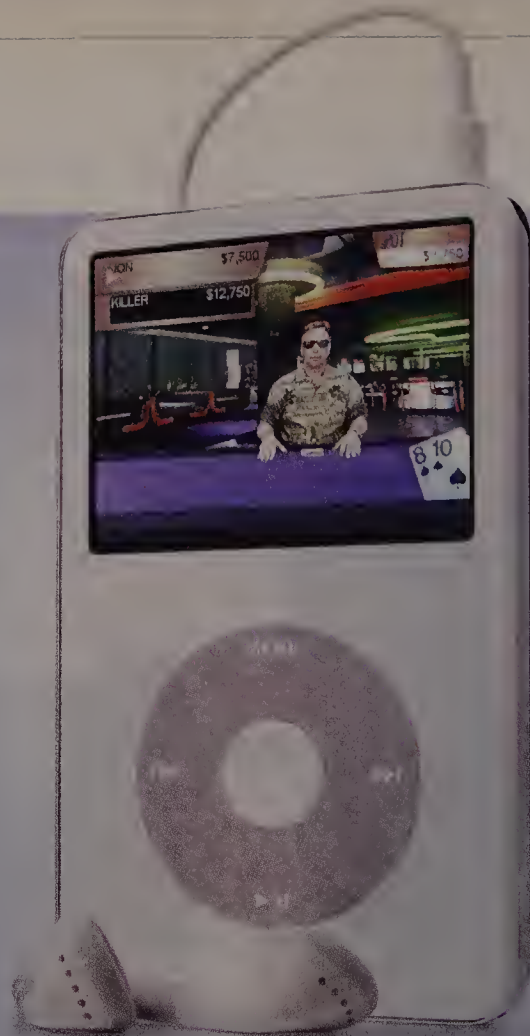
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Apple's Superstars of Poker

One of the best parts of Apple's Texas Hold'em iPod game is the realistic characters you play against. Some of them look vaguely familiar, and I kind of assumed that some Apple employees were stashed among the stable of opponents. But it wasn't until I found myself in the final tournament that my suspicions were verified. That's where I noticed that the player named "Killer" bore a striking resemblance to Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing, a pretty familiar face if you've ever attended a Macworld Expo keynote or Apple product launch. Another player, "Shark," looks very much like vice president of worldwide iPod product marketing Greg Joswiak (also known as "Joz"). The Hawaiian shirts and sunglasses may hide their tells, but they definitely don't hide their identities.—JONATHAN SEFF



Spitting Image
Killer (above), from the iPod game Texas Hold'em, looks a lot like Apple's Phil Schiller (left).



HARDWARE BEAT

ety8, from Etymotic Research (www.etymotic.com): Bluetooth-based in-ear wireless earphones weigh less than half an ounce and ship with an optional iPod adapter for controlling volume, track selection, and playback (earphones, \$199; with adapter, \$299).

FP92W, from BenQ (www.benq.us): 19-inch wide-screen display features D-Sub and DVI inputs and includes Senseye image-processing technology (\$269).

JukeDock, from Pressure Drop (www.pressuredropinc.com): White or black iPod dock that resembles a vintage jukebox connects the portable music player to a home stereo (\$100).

ScanSnap S500M, from Fujitsu (www.fujitsu.com): Updated version of business scanner for converting documents to PDF files is 20 percent faster than its predecessor and features automatic paper detection and a new design (\$495).

TruePower Battery, from FastMac (fastmac.com): 84-watt-hour battery replaces the battery included with Apple's Pismo-era PowerBook G3 model (\$140).



STORAGE BEAT

Biggest FW800 RAID, from LaCie (www.lacie.com): Updated version of external storage device with RAID controller now uses a Serial ATA hard drive for better performance and features new silver design with lockable hard-disk drawers (1TB, \$1,299; 2TB, \$1,699).

CopyCatX 4.0, from SubRosaSoft.com (www.subrosasoft.com): Hard-drive-duplication and -recovery software adds Intel compatibility and optimized code for faster performance (\$50; upgrade, \$20).

EZ Bus Desktop USB/FireWire Combo, from Apricorn (www.apricorn.com): Desktop hard drives in capacities ranging from 80GB to 500GB with FireWire 400 and USB 2.0 connectivity come bundled with backup and synchronization software (\$119 to \$369, depending on capacity).

Mercury On-the-Go FireWire 800/400 + USB 2.0, from Other World Computing (www.macsales.com): 200GB version of portable external drive uses an Oxford 924 bridge chip set and a 4,200-rpm Serial ATA hard-disk drive mechanism (\$380).



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Updated MacBook Pros Offer Speed Boosts

Laptops Get Latest Intel Processors and More

BY HENRY NORR

Apple says that its latest MacBook Pro laptops, equipped with Intel Core 2 Duo processors in place of the Core Duo chips that powered the first-generation lineup, “deliver performance that is up to 39 percent faster.” Although I was initially skeptical, imagine my surprise when I began to study the Macworld Lab performance-test results of the updated 15-inch models. The new \$2,499 version of the 15-inch MacBook Pro, with a 2.33GHz Core 2 Duo processor, outpaced its similarly priced predecessor, which had a 2.16GHz Core Duo chip, by 30 to 40 percent in tests with applications like Adobe Photoshop CS2 (running on Apple’s Rosetta code-translation technology), Compressor, and iTunes. Granted, the overall increase in the Speedmark tests wasn’t that dramatic, but an 18-percent gain is nothing to sneeze at.

Extra performance isn’t the only benefit of the new models. They also come with double the memory of their predecessors, larger hard drives, and several other enhancements. It all adds up to surprisingly substantial improvements in a lineup that was already superb.

The new MacBook Pros look nearly identical to their predecessors, and the overall structure of the lineup hasn’t changed: there are still two 15-inch configurations at \$2,499 and \$1,999, and a single 17-inch model priced at \$2,799. (To see test results for the 17-inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo, go to macworld.com/2406.)



The Core 2 Duo runs at a slightly higher speed than the Core Duo chip that powered the previous generation: in the new, more expensive 15-inch configuration, the processors now operate at 2.33GHz, up from 2.16GHz, while the less-expensive 15-inch model’s Core 2 Duo chip runs at 2.16GHz, up from 2GHz.

Beyond the processor upgrade, Apple has doubled the RAM in each standard MacBook Pro configuration: the 2.33GHz 15-inch model comes with 2GB of RAM—a pair of 1GB SO-DIMMs—and the base 15-inch model has a single 1GB SO-DIMM. For people not satisfied with 2GB of RAM, all MacBook Pros can now accommodate up to 3GB. Apple also bumped up the hard-drive capacity: the 15-inch MacBook Pros now come with 120GB drives. And Apple finally addressed one other complaint about the original 15-inch MacBook Pros: FireWire 800 is back, alongside a FireWire 400 port. However, the company hasn’t added an internal modem. If you need dial-up support, you’ll have to buy Apple’s external USB modem (\$49).

Macworld’s Buying Advice

Apple’s latest update has made these great laptops even better. If you make heavy use of Adobe’s Creative Suite or other applications that can’t take full advantage of Intel processors, you will still benefit from buying the Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro. The only real concern is cost: it’s been a while since Apple reduced its prices on pro laptops, and though they keep getting better, I wish they were a little more affordable. If price isn’t a concern for you, you won’t find much else to criticize in the MacBook Pro. (For a more detailed review of the Core 2 Duo 15-inch MacBook Pros, see macworld.com/2405.) □

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Fast performance; classic design; gorgeous screen; ample RAM and hard-drive capacity; FireWire 800.

CONS: No internal modem option; pricey.

PRICE: 2.16GHz, \$1,999; 2.33GHz, \$2,499

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com



Port Support Apple has added a FireWire 800 port to its Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro models.

REVIEWS YOU CAN TRUST Macworld rates only final shipping products, not prototypes. What we review is what you can actually buy.

MacBooks Get Their First Makeover

Consumer Laptops Get Core 2, Too

BY HENRY NORR

Before even reaching its six-month birthday, the MacBook has had its first makeover. The changes—a new processor and (in two of the three MacBook models) more RAM, bigger hard drives, and double-layer DVD burning—aren't quite as substantial as Apple's recent updates to the 15-inch MacBook Pro, but they add real value to a product that had already taken the consumer and education markets by storm.

Headlining the update is a switch to Intel's latest processor, the Core 2 Duo, in place of the Core Duo chip that powered the first MacBooks. Besides their new processors, the two more-expensive MacBook models now include a full gigabyte of memory, twice as much as before, while the \$1,099 configuration still comes with only 512MB of RAM.

As for hard-drive capacity, the \$1,099 model still comes with a 60GB Serial ATA hard drive, but the \$1,299 and \$1,499 models now have 80GB (up from 60GB) and 120GB (up from 80GB) drives, respectively.

The base model still has only a Combo drive (CD-RW/DVD ROM), but Apple has added support for burning double-layer

(8GB) DVD+R discs to the SuperDrives in both of the higher-priced MacBooks.

Despite their differences, all three configurations offer the same features that have made the MacBook such a hit: the gorgeous 13.3-inch glossy wide screen (1,280 by 800 pixels), built-in AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR wireless networking, an integrated iSight camera, both optical-digital and analog-audio input and output, a MagSafe power connector, and a Mini-DVI port that can (with the addition of adapters that cost \$19 each) support a variety of external monitors.

Macworld's Buying Advice

All three MacBook models are fast, sturdy, and versatile. Among the three standard models, I like the middle choice (\$1,299) best. The \$1,099 model, with no increase in RAM or hard-drive capacity, and with a limited version of the Core 2 Duo processor, lags further behind its more expensive siblings than it did in the original MacBook lineup. As for the \$1,499 version, I don't

think it's a rational choice, but if you just have to have a black Mac, it's your only option. If you can afford a little extra to indulge your fancy, why not? (For a more detailed review of the Core 2 Duo MacBooks, see macworld.com/2404.) □

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Improved performance; great glossy screen; built-in AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth; integrated iSight camera; SuperDrive provided with 2GHz models.

CONS: Mediocre graphics performance; no expansion-card slot; 1.83GHz model offers no additional system memory or hard-drive capacity since last version.

PRICE: 1.83GHz, \$1,099; 2GHz, \$1,299; 2GHz (black), \$1,499

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com

HENRY NORR is a veteran Mac technology writer based in Berkeley, California.

Macworld TESTED	Speedmark 4.5	Adobe Photoshop CS2	Cinema 4D XL 9.5.21	iMovie 6.0.2	iTunes 6.0.4	Unreal Tournament 2004
	OVERALL SCORE	SUITE	RENDER	AGED EFFECT	MP3 ENCODE	FRAME RATE
13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	168	1:30	1:16	1:04	1:17	17.4
13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/2GHz	178	1:25	1:14	0:59	1:13	17.8
13-inch MacBook Core 2 Duo/2GHz (black)	173	1:24	1:12	1:01	1:14	17.9
15-inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	209	1:16	1:01	0:54	1:11	63.9
15-inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz (2GB of RAM)	226	1:10	0:57	0:51	0:58	72.9
13-inch MacBook Core Duo/2GHz (black)	167	1:48	1:12	1:03	1:34	17.7
15-inch MacBook Pro Core Duo/2.16GHz ^A	190	1:40	1:06	0:58	1:38	59.0
15-inch PowerBook G4/1.67GHz	132	1:35	3:57	1:51	1:53	19.9
	>Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	>Better
BEST RESULTS IN BOLD. REFERENCE SYSTEMS IN <i>ITALICS</i> . ^A System tested with optional 7,200-rpm hard drive.						
Speedmark is a suite of 15 tasks using the Finder and eight other applications. Only a portion of those tests are represented in this chart. The individual scores are relative to those of a 1.25GHz Mac mini, which is assigned a score of 100. Adobe Photoshop, Cinema 4D XL, iMovie, and iTunes scores are in minutes:seconds. All systems were running Mac OS X 10.4.8, with 1GB of RAM and with processor performance set to Highest in the Energy Saver preference pane when applicable. The Photoshop Suite test is a set of 14 scripted tasks using a 50MB file. Photoshop's memory was set to 70 percent and History was set to Minimum. We recorded how long it took to render a scene in Cinema 4D XL. In iMovie, we applied the Aged video effect to a 1-minute movie. We converted 45 minutes of AAC audio files to MP3 using iTunes' High Quality setting. We used Unreal Tournament 2004's Antalus Botmatch average-frames-per-second score; we tested at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels, at the Maximum setting, and with both audio and graphics enabled. The Photoshop CS2 test is not part of Speedmark and does not factor into the Speedmark overall score. To compare Speedmark 4.5 scores for various Mac systems, visit our Apple Hardware Guide at macworld.com/0815 .—MACWORLD LAB TESTING BY JAMES GALBRAITH, BRIAN CHEN, AND JERRY JUNG						

Backing It Up

There Are All Kinds of Backup Apps Out There. Which One Is Right for You?

BY JOE KISSELL

In the near future, Mac users will begin updating their computers to run Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). One of the most interesting features promised for Leopard is Time Machine, a built-in backup utility with a slick 3-D interface (macworld.com/1658). Time Machine is Apple's response to a long-standing problem: too few Mac users create backups of any sort, and fewer still have thorough, automated backups.

Although the details may change before Leopard's final release, the version of Time Machine that Apple has publicly demonstrated and described on its Web site appears to solve many backup problems. You can configure it with just a few clicks; it backs up all your files by default but can exclude particular files and folders; it runs once a day, at a time that you can specify; and it can use a secondary hard drive or network volume as its destination. When you change or delete a file, Time Machine retains older versions, so you can restore any file to a previous state. And, perhaps best of all, it works not just with whole files but also with database records in supported applications; for example, you can retrieve a single mistakenly deleted Address Book entry.

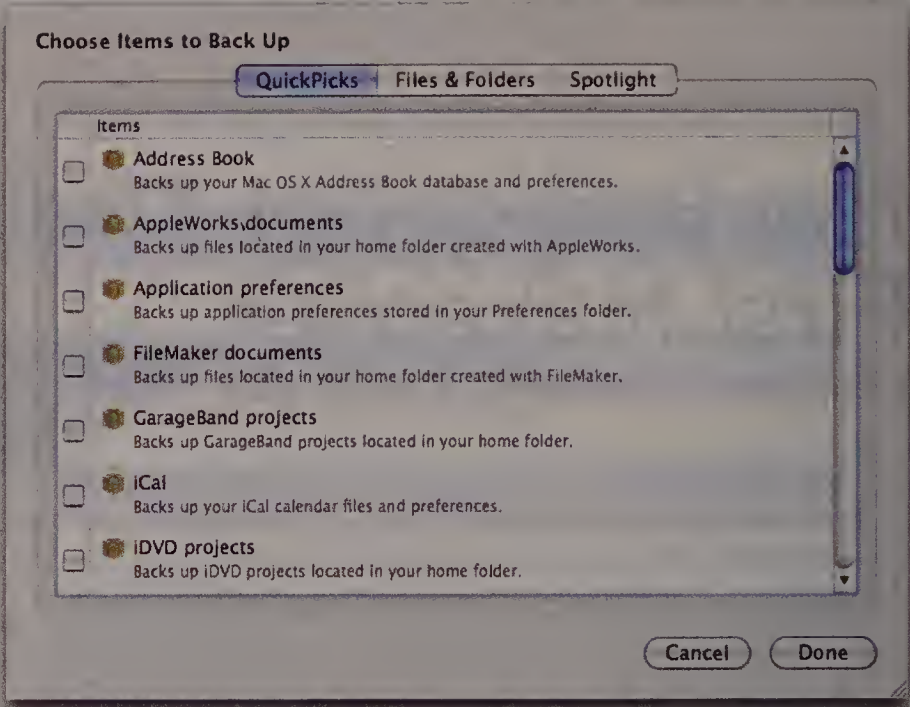
All of these features are useful and enticing, and I'm optimistic that Time Machine will massively increase the number of OS X users who perform good backups. But does Time Machine spell the end of third-party backup utilities? Is it a complete and final answer to everyone's backup needs? And does it mean that you can put off implementing a backup strategy until Leopard ships? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding "No."

For all of Time Machine's promised virtues, it won't address every backup need,

and there will still be a place for existing backup software. For example, although Time Machine copies every file on your disk, it apparently does not make a *bootable* duplicate. Also, it's clearly geared toward individual users. Network administrators who want a centrally controlled repository for multiple users will have to look elsewhere.

Until you can take advantage of Time Machine, there's plenty of time left for your hard disk to crash, for someone to steal your laptop, or for any number of other catastrophes to befall you. If you haven't established a good backup plan, there's no time like the present. If you're on the fence as to the type of media you should use for backups, consider this: an external hard drive is good for backups right now, and it will be the ideal choice for Time Machine. Buying one is an investment that will serve you well into the future.

Which of the dozens of Mac backup programs should you choose? There's no single right answer for everyone. As a starting point, consider these five popular backup applications, all of which offer some features that Time Machine won't.




Pull a Fast One Backup's Quick Picks dialog box lets you select commonly used file and data types with a single click.

Backup 3.1

If you're a .Mac member, you have access to Apple's Backup 3.1. Among numerous changes since version 2, Backup now backs up new or changed files on each run without erasing older copies.

To use Backup, you begin by creating a *plan*—a combination of items to back up, one or more destinations, and a schedule for each destination. You can create as many plans as you want. To make the process as easy as possible, Backup provides several predefined templates you can use or modify to suit your needs. Or you can create a custom plan.

Both predefined and custom plans make use of selection criteria called Quick Picks. These options are designed to help you include information that you'd want to back

BACKUP SOFTWARE COMPARED							
Company	Product	Rating	Price	Contact	OS X Compatibility	Processor Compatibility	Summary
Apple Computer	Backup 3.1	★★★★	Included with .Mac membership (\$100 per year)	www.apple.com	10.3, 10.4	Universal	Backup is easy to use, but its notification features are intrusive, and it lacks an automated option for deleting old backups.
EMC Insignia	Retrospect Desktop 6.1	★★★★	\$129	www.emcinsignia.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4	PowerPC	Retrospect Desktop's customization options are great for system administrators, but it has a confusing interface and is resource-intensive.
Intego	Personal Backup X4 10.4.5	★★★	\$70	www.intego.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4	Universal	Personal Backup X4 provides direct recording to optical discs but has limited synchronization features and poor restoration capabilities.
Prosoft Engineering	Data Backup 2.1 	★★★★½	\$59	www.prosofteng.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4	Universal	Data Backup offers numerous backup and scheduling options, but it lacks support for optical discs and has limited synchronization features.
Tri-Edre	Tri-Backup 4.0.4	★★★★½	\$49	www.tri-edre.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4	PowerPC	Tri-Backup's backup and scheduling options stand out, but it's hampered by interface oddities and limited support for optical discs.

up, such as Address Book data, preferences, your iPhoto library, Safari settings, and so on; you can even add third-party QuickPicks, such as the free Quick Pick Pack from Wish-ingline Design Studios (macworld.com/2318). You can also choose specific files or folders to include in, or exclude from, a plan—either manually or via a built-in Spotlight search feature. However, this Spotlight search isn't dynamic. If you use it to find all folders whose names contain the word *finances*, the plan won't automatically pick up a new folder with that same name later on.

Backup can use any mounted volume as a destination, including your iDisk, local network servers, optical discs, and external hard drives. But plans can run no more frequently than once a day; if you want to back up certain files more often, you'll have to create multiple plans. When a scheduled backup is about to run, Backup launches and an alert appears, with options to run the backup immediately or skip it; if you do nothing, it runs in 120 seconds. Backup offers no way to turn off this alert, which is unnecessarily intrusive for backups that do not require you to take any action (such as inserting a disc on which to burn data).

To restore files, you select a plan and click on the Restore button. Backup lists all the dates and times when that backup has run. Select an instance, and Backup displays a snapshot of all the files in the plan as they appeared at that time. Unfortunately, Backup offers no way to search your backups for files matching certain criteria, and finding all the versions of any particular file is awkward at best.

When your backup media becomes full, you can force a new full backup to run from

scratch and then manually delete earlier incremental backups that copied only new or modified files. However, this process is confusing and error-prone; Backup should provide an automated option for deleting older backups when you run out of space.

For archiving commonly used files, Apple's Backup is more than adequate. Most users can set up an automated schedule in minutes with just a few clicks, and restoring backed-up files is straightforward. However, Backup may disappoint someone looking for advanced features such as rotating backups (which automatically delete older files), sophisticated selection criteria, or flexible scheduling.

Data Backup 2.1

Prosoft Engineering's Data Backup 2.1 offers options for both beginners and power users. The first time you launch the program, it looks for an external hard drive and, if it finds one, offers to use that as the default destination; otherwise, it asks you to choose one. You can then drag files, folders, or an entire volume into the Sources field and click on Start Now for an immediate, hassle-free backup, saving your settings for future reuse if you like. Alternatively, you can choose from several prepackaged file selections, ranging from your Documents folder to the entire startup drive.

You can also use any of Data Backup's six backup methods, which cover a wide range of scenarios, to create custom backup sets. With this flexibility and power comes greater complexity. I frequently had to consult the manual to determine which method was appropriate in a given situation. But once you've chosen a method, you can customize it extensively.

The Clone method, as the name implies, creates a bootable duplicate of an entire disk on another disk (optionally ignoring specified files). The Simple Copy and Full Copy methods copy entire folders or volumes: With Simple Copy, subsequent backup runs are incremental—only copying new or modified files—but older files in the backup get overwritten. Full Copy makes a complete copy of your files in its own time-stamped folder each time you run the software. The Synchronize method merges the contents of two folders or volumes, but does so unintelligently—for example, if both a file's source and its destination have changed,

Internet Backups

Most individual users choose to store their backups on media such as hard drives, CDs, and DVDs. But what if you didn't have to purchase any storage media at all, and instead stored your backups on a high-capacity server somewhere on the Internet? Assuming you have sufficient bandwidth to do so, Internet-based storage could be for you.

Several companies currently offer such a service. One example is BackJack (macworld.com/2322), which supplies 2GB of storage for \$12.50 per month. Prolifix (macworld.com/2324) offers 500MB of storage for \$10 per month or 8GB of storage for \$29 per month. Higher levels of service are also available for both of these offerings.

A new service from Amazon.com called Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service) (macworld.com/2403) costs just 15 cents per gigabyte stored per month, plus a file-transfer fee of 20 cents per gigabyte uploaded or downloaded. Unfortunately, S3 can't hold any individual files larger than 5GB, and OS X backup programs have not yet been updated to interact directly with S3. If and when backup programs fully support S3, though, it will be a highly cost-effective backup option.

synchronization will fail, generating a message for you to check the logs but not offering any reconciliation option.

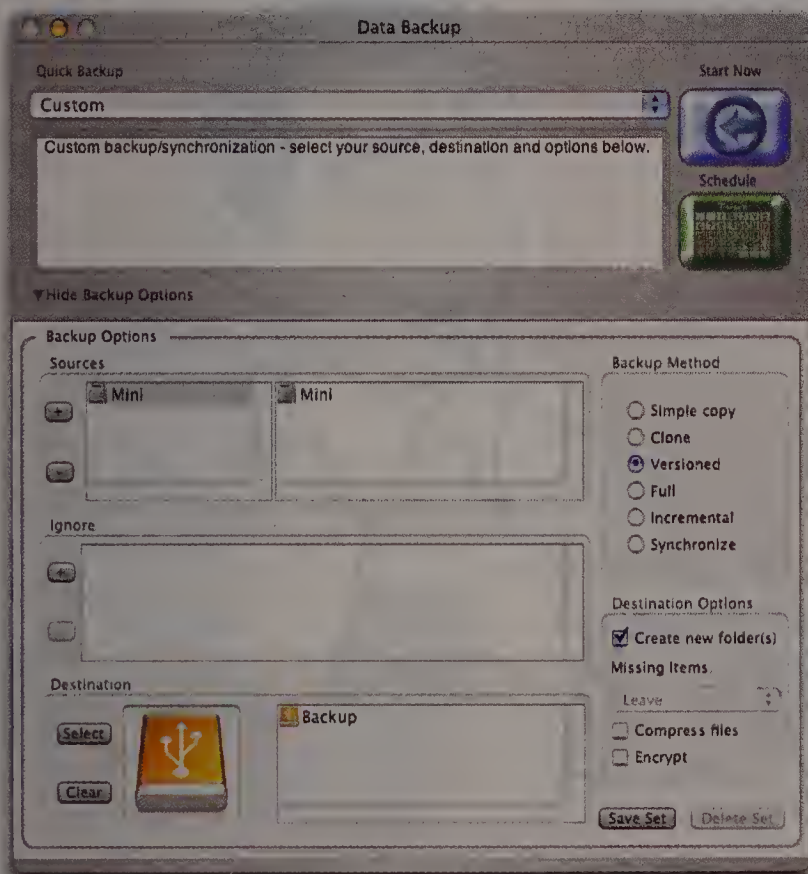
The other two backup methods incrementally copy new or changed files, but also retain previous versions of files (as well as files you've deleted from the source disk). The Versioned method makes the target drive or folder appear to be identical to the source drive or folder after each run, but it keeps older copies of files in a hidden folder. The Incremental method stores the files from each backup in a separate, time-stamped folder. Versioned backups are best for backing up to hard drives; Incremental backups are designed with CDs and DVDs in mind.

Unfortunately, Data Backup offers no direct support for backing up to optical discs, so you have to burn CDs or DVDs manually, which can be time-consuming.

Data Backup's scheduling options are extensive. A given backup set can run at specific dates and times: at intervals ranging from every minute to every four weeks, when you start your computer, when you mount the backup volume, or on certain days of the week. It can also run on more than one schedule.

To restore files with Data Backup, choose File: Restore and select a source, the files or folders within it that you wish to restore, and a destination.

continues



Tailor-Made Creating a custom backup set in Data Backup is a straightforward matter of choosing a source, destination, and other options within a single window (schedules appear in an additional dialog box).

REVIEWS

Other than its weak support for optical discs and below-average synchronization feature—neither of which is crucial for backing up your data to hard drives—there's little to dislike about Data Backup. It's a mature, capable backup application that should handle almost any single-computer backup task smoothly.

Personal Backup X4 10.4

Intego's Personal Backup X4 10.4.5 has an unmistakably friendly interface that makes backing up look simple. Pick a backup type, choose your source and a destination, click on a button, and you're off. Behind this easy-to-use system is a full-featured backup application with some surprisingly advanced options—and some surprising limitations.

The fundamental unit of work in Personal Backup X4 is a script, which includes a backup's type, source, destination, schedule, and other options. Personal Backup X4 comes with several predefined scripts for immediate backup actions (just supply the source and destination), as well as scripts with predefined sources (your Documents, Music, and Pictures folders, for example). To customize a script, you can copy and edit an existing script or use a built-in assistant to create your own from scratch.

The script types define overall behavior. The options are Backup (includes incremental updates after the first full run),

Archive (stores files in a compressed disk image), Move (stores files in their original format and deletes the originals), Clone (creates bootable duplicates), and Synchronization (merges two volumes or folders so that each has the most recent version of every file).

The Synchronization type is rudimentary; it neither warns you nor offers any reconciliation options when a file's source and destination have both been modified.

Personal Backup X4 can also use the results of a Spotlight search as a source: enter search data, and the program backs up all files matching your search criteria on each run (unlike Apple's Backup, in which Spotlight searches are not dynamic). Unfortunately, this feature is buggy and unreliable; for example, searching for text in file content worked, but searching for text in file path names did not.

When choosing a source or destination for your backups, you can select not just a mounted volume but even an unmounted network volume. Personal Backup X4 can



Point of View Personal Backup X4's default view shows you scripts (predefined and user-created) at the top, and the source and the destination below. Double-click on the script to expand the window and show detailed options.

store your user name and password, if you wish, and can automatically connect to AFP, FTP, SMB, and WebDAV servers when it's time for a backup to run. In addition, it offers direct support for backing up to optical discs. Backups to CD or DVD can span multiple discs, and the program prompts you to insert additional discs when needed.

When it comes to restoring files, Personal Backup X4 is weak. Restoration is merely a matter of selecting a source and a destination and then clicking on a button, but the problem is that it's all or nothing: you can't choose which files to restore. Since you're much more likely to want to restore a portion of a backup than the whole thing, this is a significant flaw.

continues



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Personal Backup X4 10.4 certainly has flashes of brilliance, such as extensive network server support and direct recording to optical discs, and for basic backup operations, it works well. But bugs and a poor restoration feature mar an otherwise attractive program.

Retrospect Desktop 6.1

Retrospect Desktop 6.1, from EMC Insignia, is one of four editions of this software available for Macs. The Workgroup and Server editions add features for handling large networks and computers running OS X Server; the Express edition, bundled free with many hard drives and optical drives, omits network backups and tape drive support. Retrospect's design caters to the needs of network administrators, who must grapple with backing up numerous computers (both Macs and PCs). For the average home or small business user, though, the program can be intimidating.

In an attempt to bypass the complexity, Retrospect has a feature called the EasyScript Wizard that builds a basic backup system by walking you through a series of questions. You can customize the plan it creates relatively easily. But if you want to color outside the lines even more, you must dig into the 256-page manual. The learning curve is challenging.

Duplicates and Synchronization

Some of the backup programs covered here can create bootable duplicates of your startup disk; some can synchronize the contents of one folder or volume with those of another. Both of these processes create identical copies of your files. Synchronization, however, is usually a two-way process, merging files from two sources and ideally providing multiple ways to reconcile their differences. Duplicates, on the other hand, require additional work, as you can boot a duplicated disk only if every last detail is identical to the original.

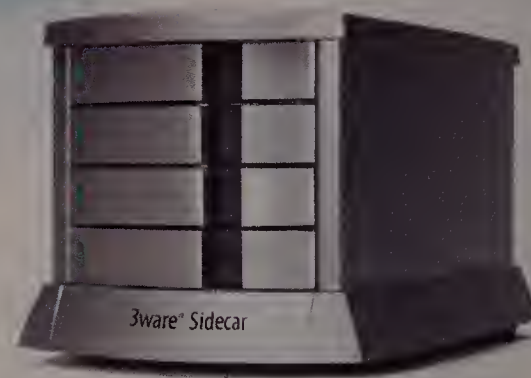
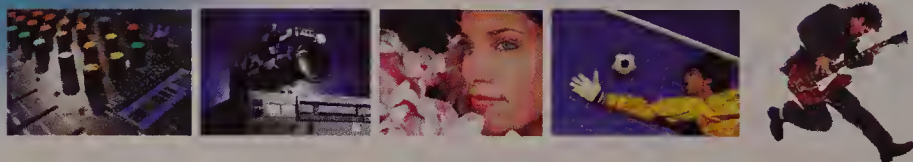
If your focus is on duplication, Shirt Pocket's SuperDuper 2.1 (★★★★★; \$28; macworld.com/2325) is an ideal choice; another good option is Bombich Software's Carbon Copy Cloner 2.3 (★★★★★; donation requested; macworld.com/2277). As for utilities that specialize in synchronization, Econ Technologies' ChronoSync 3.0 (★★★★★; \$30; macworld.com/0609) is both powerful and versatile. Other options include Qdea's Synchronize Pro X 5.0 (\$100; macworld.com/2320) and Decimus Software's Synk 6.0 (\$20; macworld.com/2321), both of which can also make bootable duplicates.

Retrospect Desktop can perform immediate, unscheduled backup, duplication, and restore actions. For automated use, you must create a script. This is simply a collection of settings—backup type, source, destination, schedule, and other options—all shown in a single window. Script types include Backup (which creates archives in a proprietary file format, incrementally adding new files on each run without deleting old ones), Duplicate (for making exact, bootable duplicates), Archive (for copying files and optionally deleting the originals), and Restore (for the task of automated restorations). The program's options for selecting or excluding files, scheduling backups, and fiddling with every detail of a backup's execution are versatile—but confusing.

Although Retrospect Desktop works perfectly well for backing up a single machine, it can also back up two additional computers (Mac or PC) on your network via an included Retrospect Client program (you can purchase additional licenses if you're backing up more than three). Using an external hard drive, Retrospect Desktop can even create a bootable duplicate of your hard disk over a network connection, a rare feat among backup programs. You manage all backups and restorations centrally on the computer that's running Retrospect Desktop.

Retrospect Desktop has unparalleled capabilities when it comes to working with optical continues

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discs. Not only can it record to CDs and DVDs directly, it can record incrementally—adding to a disc on successive backups until it fills. No other Mac backup application can do this. On the other hand, Retrospect Desktop has historically been slow to add support for new hard drives as they appear on the market.

Thanks largely to its use of snapshots—lists of all the files in the source as they appeared at each backup, whether copied on that run or not—Retrospect Desktop has an extremely powerful Restore feature. You can restore an entire disk (or selected files) from any date to the original location or to an alternate location; you can also search a single backup set or across multiple sets for a file. Unfortunately, the interface is somewhat confusing. You must choose a destination before even searching for files to restore, and the program does a poor job of guiding you through some of the steps.

Although Retrospect Desktop was reasonably stable in my tests, I did find that it sometimes taxed the computer's processor, even making it difficult at times to use the computer for other tasks. For this reason, you'll want to schedule backups to run overnight or at other times when you're not using your computers.

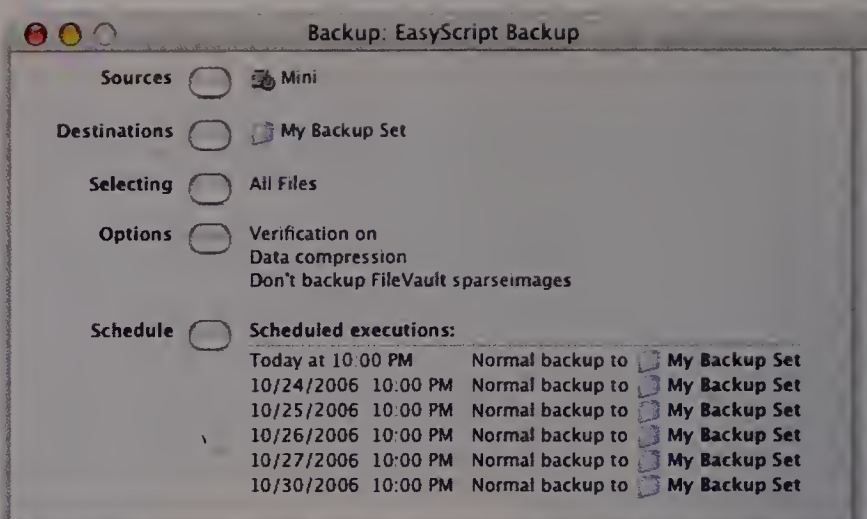
Measured purely in terms of the number and depth of features, no other Mac backup program can hold a candle to Retrospect. If you want to back up a small network, it's

the best choice by far. As nice as the bells and whistles are, though, the application is wanting when it comes to ease of use and performance—at least for individual users.

Tri-Backup 4.0

Tri-Backup 4.0.4, from Tri-Edre, offers a respectable range of backup options in a somewhat quirky package. Like most other backup tools, it distinguishes between immediate actions and programmed (scheduled) actions; it also offers prepackaged settings for several common actions.

Although all backup programs differ somewhat in their use of terminology, Tri-Backup differs more. If you want to make a bootable duplicate, the mode you choose is Direct Copy—not to be confused with Mirror Backup, which copies all files into a new folder on the destination volume. For incremental archives that preserve old copies of files, choose the Evolutive Mirror Backup. Although Tri-Backup always copies files incrementally when possible, its Incremental



Picking and Choosing A script window in Retrospect summarizes all the options for a given backup. Changing any of the settings (by clicking on the corresponding button) opens additional windows.

Backup mode stores new or changed files from each session in a separate, time-stamped folder. Its Archiving mode deletes originals from the source after copying them. Tri-Backup also offers a Synchronize mode, which attempts to make the contents of two folders or volumes identical.

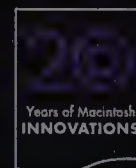
Once you've decided on a mode, you choose a source and destination for your backup. You also select its options, schedule, filters for including or excluding files, and additional actions to perform before or after the backup. The details you can specify are

continues

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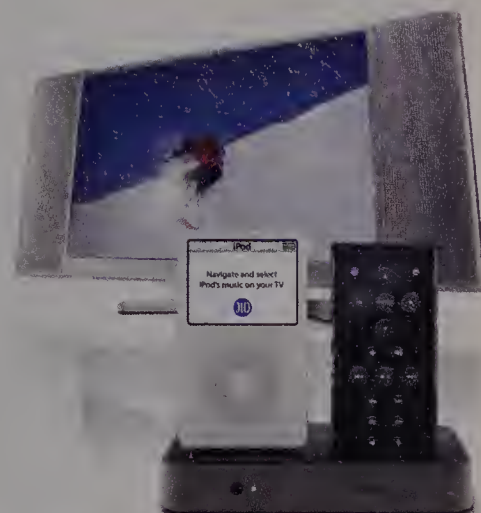
1

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2

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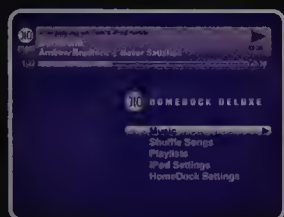
3

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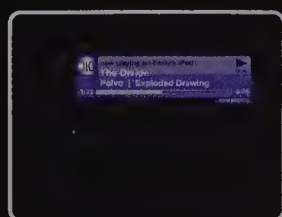
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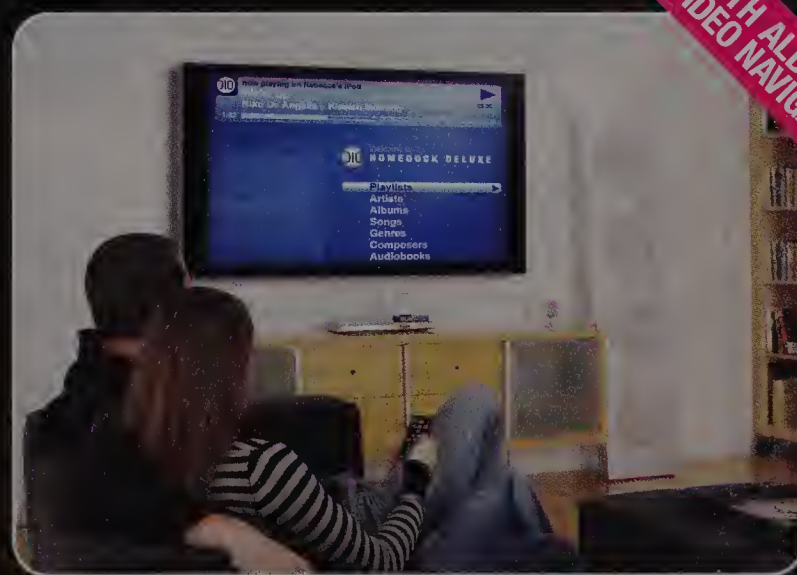
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numerous and jargon-heavy: you may find yourself scrambling for the manual to figure out, for example, whether you should exclude .DS_Store files, aliases, invisible files, and evolvable data. Speaking of the manual, it's a separate, optional download. Including it by default would have been a better choice.

Like most backup applications, Tri-Backup has limited support for optical discs. You can't burn discs from within the program, but you can, for example, back up data

to a blank CD via the Finder's Burn Disc command, repeating the process if necessary to store additional data.

Tri-Backup is full of interface oddities that, while not entirely inscrutable, make the program seem harder to use than it really is. These include check boxes galore, often with confusing labels; nonstandard icons and menu commands whose functions are not readily apparent; and the aforementioned peculiar terminology. The program also

assumes knowledge you can obtain only by reading the manual. The manual doesn't illuminate all the program's details sufficiently to make less-sophisticated users confident in their choices, but a simpler and more intuitive interface would be better than an improved manual. That said, in most cases, if you simply accept the default selections, Tri-Backup does the right thing.

I found Tri-Backup made many activities that should have been

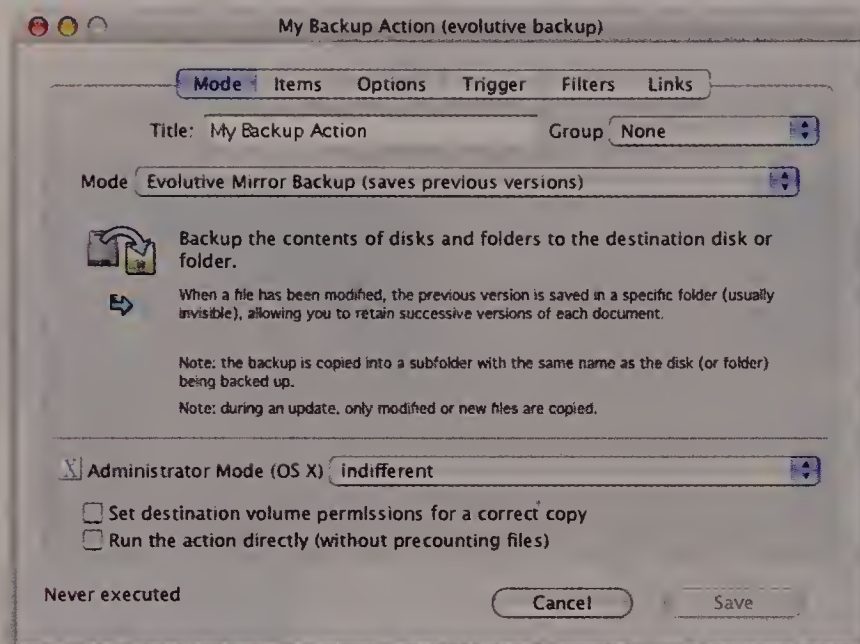
simple unduly confusing. Unfortunate choices of interface and wording make this otherwise versatile program less attractive than others.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Ultimately, your choice of backup software depends largely on the types of backups you wish to perform and what you intend to back up to. Apple's easy-to-use Backup 3.1 is a fine choice if you want only archives, but for bootable duplicates you'll need a separate application. If you'll be backing up to hard drives and want only bootable duplicates, the programs discussed here are overkill; you'd be much better served by the \$28 SuperDuper 2.1 (see "Duplicates and Synchronization"). For an all-purpose, straightforward backup tool that handles everything from bootable duplicates to archives, Data Backup 2.1 is the clear winner.

If you plan to back up to optical discs, Retrospect Desktop 6.1 and Personal Backup X4 10.4.5 are the best options; Retrospect is more capable by far (but also more expensive and more difficult to use). However, Retrospect is unrivaled for backing up multiple computers over a network and for maintaining total control over every aspect of a backup when necessary. □

JOE KISSELL is the senior editor of TidBits and the author of *Real World Mac Maintenance and Backups* (Peachpit, 2007).



Source of Confusion? To configure a new programmed action in Tri-Backup, you'll have to work your way through several screens, many of which contain confusing options.



"With what it takes to acquire successful footage... flesh is all that you can afford to lose."

Arthur C. Smith III

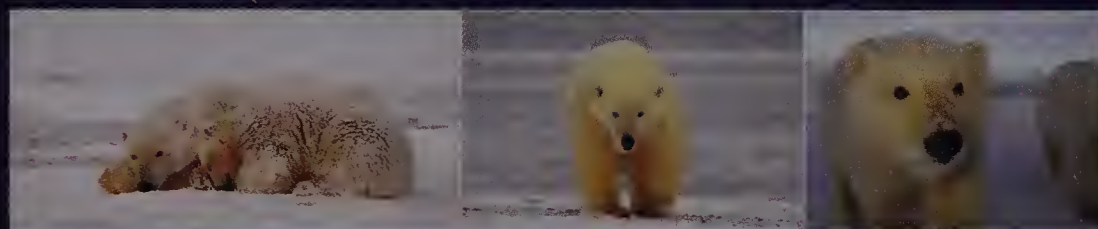
Arthur Smith is an independent filmmaker working on projects with National Geographic Magazine, undertaking the task of filming Polar Bears in Barter Island. As a photographer, Arthur Smith lives in the moment.

"The ability to capture the moment becomes an invisible requisite, the ability to share that moment with the world is the Holy Grail."

As a necessity to Arthur Smith's work flow, he uses CalDigit's S2VR HD 2.5 Terabyte.

"CalDigit arises in the marketplace as a truly affordable RAID solution offering the capacity to support the uncompressed HD of this intensive stage of my editing."

To read more about Arthur Smith and the S2VR Series, please visit: www.CalDigit.com



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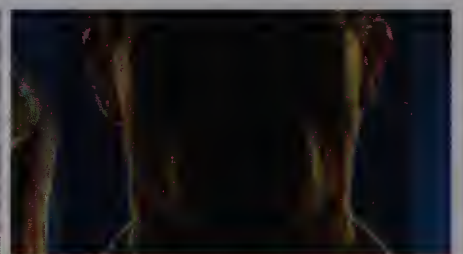
CIVILIZATION IV*



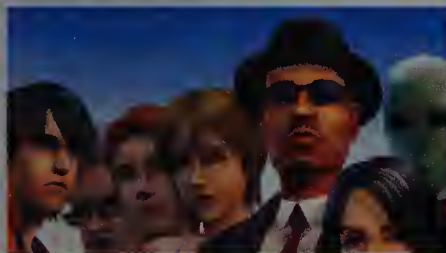
CIVILIZATION IV WARLORDS*



CALL OF DUTY 2



COMMAND AND CONQUER GENERALS



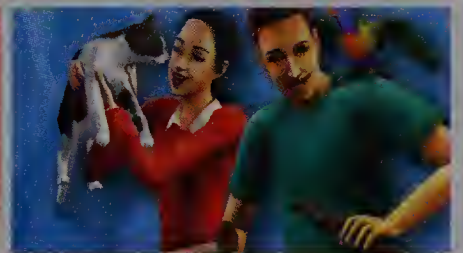
THE SIMS 2



THE SIMS 2: NIGHTLIFE



THE SIMS 2: OPEN FOR BUSINESS



THE SIMS 2: PETS

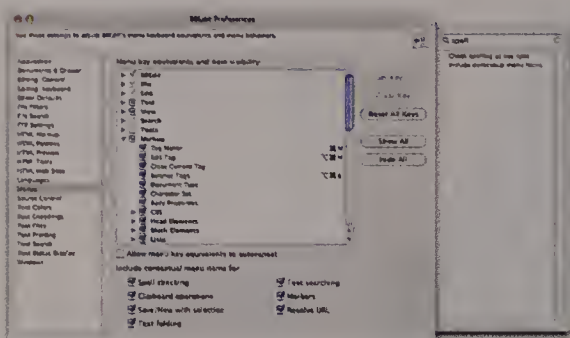
COME SEE ASPYR AT MACWORLD, BOOTH #4429



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More Reviews

For complete reviews of the products listed here, visit www.macworld.com/reviews.

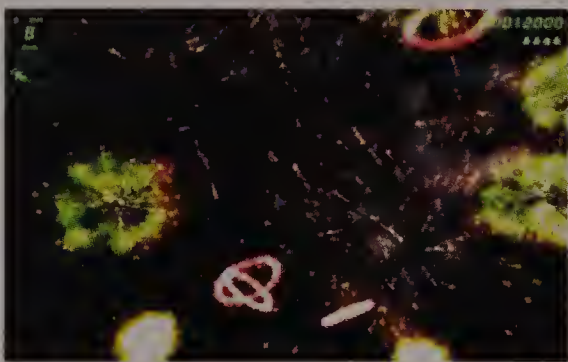


BBEdit 8.5 ▲ (\$125; upgrade from version 8, \$30), from Bare Bones Software (www.barebones.com): BBEdit has long been the go-to text editor for Mac geeks. But as time passed, BBEdit started to show its age, with new features just piled on top of old ones. In version 8.5.2, Bare Bones has given the old star a face-lift, restructuring and simplifying the interface to make BBEdit look like a hot new app. The new version presents simplified Preferences menus, autosave features, and the ability to read and write gzip-compressed files (macworld.com/2414).



EyeTV 250 ▲ (\$200), from Elgato (www.elgato.com): The EyeTV 250 is an analog TV tuner with a built-in MPEG encoder (digital cable or satellite subscribers have to go through their converter box). The EyeTV

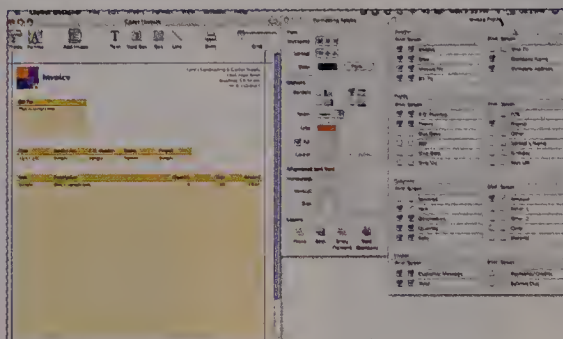
250 lets you watch live TV on your Mac or schedule recordings, which you can easily archive to a DVD or to your video iPod. The EyeTV 250 is a great personal video recorder for Mac users. It's particularly useful to owners of slower Macs, as the hardware encoder ensures high-quality recordings without overworking the computer's processor (macworld.com/2411).



Pangea Arcade ▲ (\$20), from Pangea Software (www.pangeasoft.net): The company that brought us Nanosaur has gone back in time again, but not quite to the age of the dinosaurs. Now it's the 1980s that serve as inspiration for this collection of three games that evoke classics like Missile Command, Asteroids, and Centipede, all with updated graphics and game play better suited to the 21st century (macworld.com/2418).

QuickBooks Pro 2007 ▼ (\$199), from Intuit (www.intuit.com): The latest version of Intuit's accounting package for the Mac offers several new features—including Universal support and a new form-design tool that

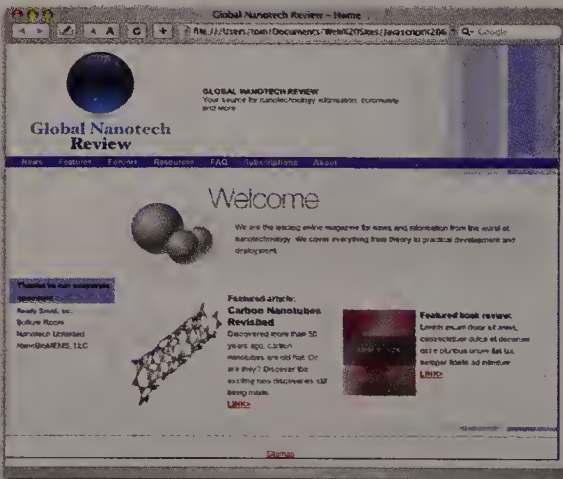
allows you to customize estimates, invoices, and statements—that are sure to please many of the program's users. But if you were holding out hope that the next version of QuickBooks would add credit card processing or multiuser support, you're going to have to wait a little longer (macworld.com/2416).



Scrabble ▼ (\$20), from GameHouse (www.gamehouse.com): There's no multiplayer capability here, but if you're in the mood for some crisscrossing wordplay against a variety of computer opponents at different skill levels, make sure to check out Scrabble. This is an officially licensed Scrabble product that even includes the Merriam-Webster Scrabble dictionary (macworld.com/2417).

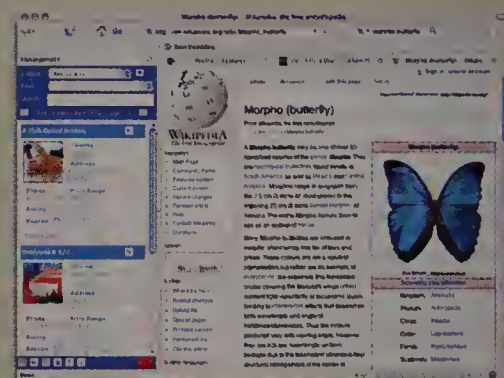


SiteAssist 3.0 ▼ (\$200), from WebAssist (www.webassist.com): SiteAssist 3.0.3 is a wizard-based Dreamweaver extension that steps you through the process of creating a Web site. It helps you create the layouts, choose the navigation-menu structure, and build the pages. SiteAssist lets you select from a wide variety of appealing page and navigation-bar styles, and it lets you change your mind and redo the site at any time, without losing any custom elements you may have specified. It's a very good tool for designers that need technical assistance (macworld.com/2413).

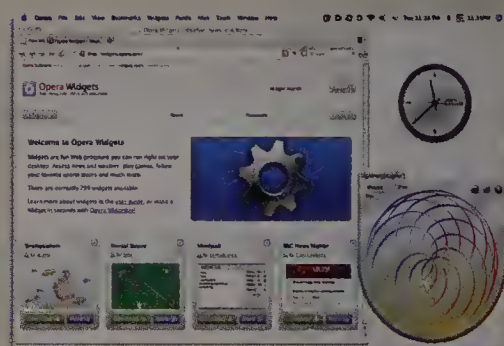


BROWSERS

Surf in Style



Firefox 2 (free), from the Mozilla Foundation (www.mozilla.org): Firefox 2, the latest release from the Mozilla Foundation, is another great browser that Mac users can add to their arsenal. The latest version sports a bevy of new features—the most useful of which is a phishing-protection tool. It flashes an alert when you log on to a known phishing site. It's a great security attribute that ought to be built into every browser. In addition, Firefox 2 provides an integrated spelling checker, a Search Engine Manager (which allows you to add, remove, and reorder the search engines that will show up in Firefox's search entry field), and new interface features that make tabbed browsing even easier to use (macworld.com/2415).



Opera 9 (free), from Opera Software (www.opera.com): Opera is a fast, slick Web browsing application that is capable of navigating the Web; managing e-mail, RSS feeds, and BitTorrent downloads; and even running mini-applications called Widgets. Unfortunately, Opera still sports annoying pop-up windows, which let you know every time the program blocks a Web pop-up ad. Nonetheless, Opera 9.02 is a substantial update to what was already a stellar Web browsing application. New features such as Widgets, as well as the program's use of existing features such as Mouse Gestures, make the application easier and more fun to use. The new version of Opera is a worthy choice for all of your Internet needs (macworld.com/2412).

**I just downloaded TaxCut software.
No charge. No kidding.
I got people.**



Free software for Macworld readers from H&R Block.

Take advantage of this special offer and download TaxCut software free. It provides the tax preparation expertise of H&R Block, with easy data importing directly from popular tax prep software and money management programs. And you can get answers to tax questions from your people as you go via e-mail or phone*. Your people can even help you with Worry-free Audit Support[™], included when you e-file* and available only from H&R Block at no additional cost.** Simplify and save with TaxCut software.

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iPod Gear

For more iPod-related news and product reviews, visit playlistmag.com.

FM Transmitters

For reviews of more than 30 FM transmitters, go to macworld.com/2398.

★★★★ Digital FM Transmitter/Auto Charger for iPod (\$80);

from Kensington (www.kensington.com): The Digital FM Transmitter plugs into your car's accessory jack and connects, via a cable, to your iPod's dock-connector port. It has three presets, can transmit from 88.1 to 107.9, and automatically turns off if it doesn't detect an iPod signal for 60 seconds. It's also one of the better-sounding transmitters out there, thanks to solid bass response.



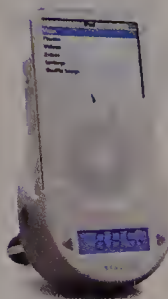
★★★★ iTrip (\$50), from Griffin Technology (www.griffin-technology.com):

Griffin's new iTrip is the successor to one of the first iPod FM transmitters. This model plugs into, and draws power from, the iPod's dock connector. You choose a frequency via a small toggle wheel on the unit's right side. What sets the iTrip apart from other iPod-powered transmitters is its LX mono mode (which provides a more powerful signal) and its ability to transmit to frequencies below 88.1.



★★★★ TransPod (\$100), from DLO (www.dlo.com):

With DLO's TransPod, you really do get what you pay for. Although it's among the most expensive FM transmitters we've used, it's also among the most powerful—often overpowering weak broadcast FM stations. The TransPod can tune from 88.1 to 107.9 on the FM band and features a large display, four presets for storing your favorite frequencies, and a dock connector. The TransPod powers itself and your iPod from a car's 12-volt power jack while it plays.



★★★★ TransDock micro (\$70), from DLO (www.dlo.com):

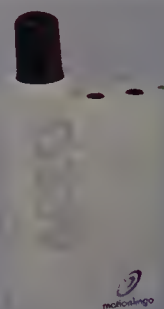
The TransDock micro is a good deal. It plugs into your car's power jack and attaches to the iPod's dock connector via a removable adapter cable. The micro offers four presets, tunes from 88.1 to 107.9 on the FM band, and includes an audio output jack for connecting your iPod to a car stereo.



NEW: GPS-BASED WORKOUTS

★★★ Adeo Fitness Trainer

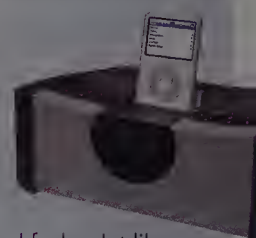
(\$150), from MotionLingo (www.motionlingo.com): For people who want some global-positioning satellite (GPS) functionality in a workout device—as well as an accessory that works with any iPod—there's the Adeo Fitness Trainer. The GPS receiver features an audio interface that's designed to work with iPods and other MP3 players to track your outdoor workouts for a variety of sports. The Adeo lacks a screen but provides audio feedback on distance traveled, speed (current, workout, average, fastest), time, elevation, and calories burned. The unit is sleek and lightweight and—assuming your course has few obstructions—provides accurate data, including split times and elevations. However, we had trouble getting a clear signal among trees and tall buildings. The Adeo lacks the visual interface of more expensive GPS systems, and the clumsy interface may put some people off (macworld.com/2397).



NEW: IPOD ALARM CLOCK

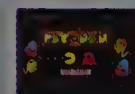
★★★ iTone iC200 (\$120),

from Emerson Radio (emersonradio.com): The iTone iC200's functionality is among the best we've seen in iPod alarm clocks. Its easy-to-use remote—which looks and feels a lot like a first-generation iPod shuffle—lets you control iPod playback; switch between iPod, radio, and auxiliary-input modes; and choose radio presets. Unfortunately, the iC200's audio quality is so poor that we can't recommend the system. We also experienced difficulty receiving radio stations clearly. You'd be better served by buying a dedicated (and less expensive) alarm clock and looking elsewhere for iPod speakers (macworld.com/2399).



NEW: IPOD GAMES

When Apple released the updated 5G iPod, it also announced a number of games, available for \$5 each through the iTunes Store, that work with both the updated and original 5G models. Macworld.com blogger Peter Cohen has taken each of these games for a ride. Read his full reviews at macworld.com/2400.



iPODS

Product	Capacity	Rating	Price	Display	Battery Life	Media Supported	More Information
iPod	30GB	★★★★	\$249	2.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback; 4 hours of slide shows with music; 3.5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	macworld.com/2233
iPod	80GB	★★★★	\$349	2.5-inch color	20 hours of music playback; 6 hours of slide shows with music; 6.5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	macworld.com/2234
iPod nano	2GB	★★★★	\$149	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2235
iPod nano	4GB	★★★★	\$199	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2236
iPod nano	8GB	★★★★	\$249	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2237
iPod shuffle	1GB	★★★★	\$79	N/A	12 hours of music playback	Music	macworld.com/2238

N/A = not applicable.

Getting bored on your board?

(Add some tunes to the mix)

Outdoor Case for iPod nano 1G/2G from H2O Audio



Take your music to the mountain.

The Outdoor Case from H2O Audio is the perfect accessory for the iPod user that wants to tackle the elements. This durable case provides impact and weather resistance with a formfitting design and locking slider system. It also features the patented Commander™ scroll wheel for seamless Click Wheel control – even while wearing gloves.



Sportsuit Runabout
from Marware
A new sport wristband for iPod shuffle.



Signature Case
from Case-mate
iPod nano (RED) looks great in leather.



T24 Shelf System
from Sonic Impact
A compact and powerful iPod sound system.



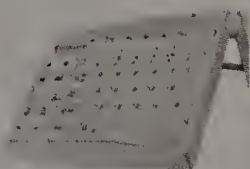
Armor for iPod nano
from Matias
Protects iPod nano in a rugged aluminum shell.



Project X
from Marware
Project management software for the rest of us.



PhoneValet 5.0
from Parliant
Call management system for the office or home.



Goldtouch for Mac
from Key Ovation
An adjustable folding ergonomic keyboard.



T3Hub
from Dr. Bott
Expands a single USB 2.0 port into three ports.



iSnug nano Set
from HandStands
Travel in style with this hard-shell travel case.



FrameForge 3D Studio 2
from Innoventive Software
Create a detailed virtual 3D movie set.

WIDGET-TO-APP CONVERTER

Amnesty Singles 1.1.1

Mac OS X's Dashboard can be a useful feature for accessing get-in-and-get-out tools such as dictionaries, calculators, weather updates, and more. But there are times when I want to use a particular widget without going through Dashboard. For example, maybe I want to do something without leaving my main workspace—if I need a particular widget often, the repeated, get-in-and-get-out action gets old quickly.

You may be familiar with Dashboard's hidden Developer mode, which lets you drag a widget out of Dashboard and onto your Desktop. But this technique leaves the widget floating above all the other applications. A better alternative—for \$10—is Mesa Dynamics' Amnesty Singles 1.1.1 (★★★★; www.mesadynamics.com).

This handy utility lets you convert individual widgets into stand-alone applications. You just drag your favorite widget into the Amnesty Singles window, choose whether to make the resulting application dependent on (or independent of) the original widget, and then click on Build. Choose a location to save the new application, and you're done. When launched, the new app appears in the Dock, has its own menu-bar menus, and appears in OS X's ⌘-tab Application Switcher, the same as any other application.

The new application's Widget menu offers some useful options: you can choose to make the new app float above all other applications, function as part of the desktop, or work the same as any standard application; and, if the widget needs to refresh its contents periodically, you can select how often it should do so. You can use Amnesty Singles' widget-application creations with both Tiger and Panther.

There is one small caveat: I found that some widgets, such as Apple's Dictionary widget, don't work properly if you create a stand-alone, bundled application, but

RedBook Pro Speck's SeeThru gives your Mac laptop some flashy protection—or for the strong, silent type of user, the SeeThru is also available in clear.

they work fine if you use the program's option to load the original widget from its original location.

NOTEBOOK PROTECTOR

SeeThru

Lately, the Mac-related question I've been asked most frequently has been, "Why is your MacBook Pro red?"

You see, I've been using Speck Products' new SeeThru for the 15-inch MacBook Pro (★★★★; \$40; www.speckproducts.com). Made of polycarbonate, the SeeThru is a two-piece protective covering; one piece attaches, via four small clips, to the top of the MacBook Pro, and the other covers the bottom and sides. (I'm using a version of the SeeThru for the Core Duo MacBook Pro; according to the vendor, versions for the Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro and the MacBook should be available by the time you read this.)

The SeeThru is available in a clear version that doesn't change the appearance of your laptop much. But it is the shiny red model that has adorned my MacBook Pro for the past couple of weeks, turning my computer into a cherry-red, attention-grabbing notebook.

The SeeThru looks great and is very functional. It protects the MacBook Pro's external aluminum surface, which is easily scratched and dented. For the first time, I've been able to drop my laptop into airport-security bins without wondering if it would emerge from the X-ray with a bunch of new scratches on the bottom. And all of the MacBook Pro's ports and buttons remain accessible, thanks to perfectly aligned openings in the plastic. The case fits securely and has four large rubber feet on the bot-

tom to keep the laptop in place on a desk or table.

The SeeThru makes your MacBook Pro a bit thicker but not so much that it won't fit in most skin or sleeve cases. (The SeeThru also adds 14 ounces to the laptop's overall weight.) There's no opening on the bottom of the case for the MacBook Pro's battery, so you need to remove the entire bottom piece of the SeeThru to swap batteries. Fortunately, this is easy.

I did come across a couple of minor problems while using the SeeThru. The first involves using USB or FireWire peripherals that have wide plugs. The notebook's ports are recessed a bit more with the SeeThru on, so you have to push firmly to get a good connection. The other problem is that some notebook security locks don't work with the SeeThru, because it increases the thickness of the case.

The second most common question I've received about the SeeThru has been "Does it make the MacBook Pro hotter?" After a few weeks of using a SeeThru-enclosed MacBook Pro as my primary machine, my answer is, "A little, but not much." A good amount of the heat the MacBook Pro generates is released through the rear vents and the keyboard area; the SeeThru does not block those areas. And the bottom of the SeeThru has 74 small vents that let air reach the bottom of your MacBook Pro. A bonus: because the SeeThru keeps your MacBook Pro's hot aluminum bottom away from your skin, you can actually use your laptop on your lap.

If you're looking for a way to add attractive protection to your 15-inch MacBook Pro, the SeeThru is a nice accessory that's reasonably priced.

continues





small in size and big in sound, all iHome systems reinvent your iPod experience. compact yet sleek, powerful yet astonishingly clear, each iHome system features the crystalline sound of Reson8™ Speakers, a charging dock fit for all docking iPods (including nano), and an individualized design to suit your life-sound-style, at home or on the go.

iH5. clock radio companion with Wake to iPod/Sleep to iPod functionality. moonlights as clever home stereo. iH26. trusty travel alarm clock to keep you on-time and in-tune on trips or at the office. traveling gear included. sound good? visit ihomeaudio.com for more info.

iHome™
www.ihomeaudio.com



Available at:

Apple Store



TARGET

iTUNES AUTOMATION

Doug's AppleScripts

Apple's iTunes has its limitations, but I haven't seen any other program that makes it as easy to acquire and manage audio and video files. That said, heavy users of iTunes are quick to point out things the app apparently can't do.

Many people are surprised to learn that you can address many of iTunes' file- and metadata-management shortcomings via AppleScript. But you don't need to know AppleScript to take advantage of its functionality; that's where Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes (www.dougscripits.com) comes in. A labor of love put together by Doug Adams, the Web site serves as a comprehensive repository for iTunes-focused AppleScripts—currently 416 of them, some written by Doug, others submitted by readers.

Here are some of my favorite scripts from Doug's site. Most of them work by selecting the desired tracks in iTunes and then choosing the script from iTunes' Script menu. (All scripts include installation instructions, but all you have to do is drag a script into /Library/iTunes/Scripts or *your user folder*/Library/iTunes/Scripts to make it available to iTunes.) The scripts are available for free, but the site asks for a small donation if you find them useful.

Set Video Kind of Selected 2.0 If you've got a bunch of miscategorized video files (Movie, Music Video, or TV Show), you've probably figured out that you can't change your files' categories in batches; you need to open the Info window, go to

Sleeping Beauty

I'm a big believer in the power of napping, but I admit that much of this conviction is involuntary—I find it difficult to function in the afternoon if I haven't had some kind of a midday snooze. But sometimes starting my nap can be a problem; the unfinished projects and looming deadlines make too much mental noise. So I was pleased to discover Brainwave's Pzizz 2.0 (★★★★; with energizer module, \$30; for sleep module, \$30; both, \$50; www.pzizz.com). This software generates background audio—a combination of soothing spoken words, sound effects, and music—for power napping, and it has helped me nap both more deeply and more efficiently (that is, I fall asleep more quickly).

According to the company, Pzizz stimulates the subconscious using neurolinguistic programming; the software's algorithms create unique nap mixes every time you use it. The benefit is supposed to be "the consistent active stimulation of the subconscious through novel but recognizable input." At the end of an Energizer nap, the vocal alarm comes with remarkable suddenness, and it seems as though I'm able to wake up more quickly, feeling much more refreshed than I normally do after a midday snooze.

After you install the Pzizz software, you can create custom naps, adjusting their length (between 1 and 60 minutes) and the volume of the voice and music. Pzizz also allows you to export nap files to iTunes. You can then put them on your iPod, which seems appropriate, since it's easier to bring your iPod to your nap space than your laptop, and it's better than catching some z's near your desktop computer.

Pzizz is clearly a niche product; but the good news for those of us who struggle if we don't get our nap time is that Pzizz fills that niche very well.—JEFF MERRON



the Video tab, and then change the Video Kind option—for *each* video, individually. Set Video Kind of Selected lets you make this change en masse; in addition, it lets you batch-set the Show Name and Season Numbers, as well as autofill the tracks' Episode Number (just enter the starting number, and the script will increase it by one for each subsequent track).

Make Bookmarkable 2.1 and Make Un-Bookmarkable 3.0 Make Bookmarkable changes the file type and file extension of selected AAC tracks to M4B and .m4b, respectively, from M4A and .m4a. This simple change makes the selected tracks bookmarkable in iTunes—so you'll be able to resume playback wherever you left off. Make Un-Bookmarkable changes the files' type and extension back to M4A and .m4a, respectively.

Artist to Album Artist This script is useful for iTunes 7's new album-by-artist sorting, because it copies the Artist tag to the Album Artist field of the selected tracks.

Append to Selected Tag 1.1 This lets you append the text of your choice to the beginning or end of existing Song Name, Artist, Album, Composer, or Comments fields.

Remove *n* Characters from Front or Back 2.0 To remove a specific number of characters from the beginning or end of the Song Name, Album, Artist, or Composer fields, use this script. I've found that it's especially useful in two situations:

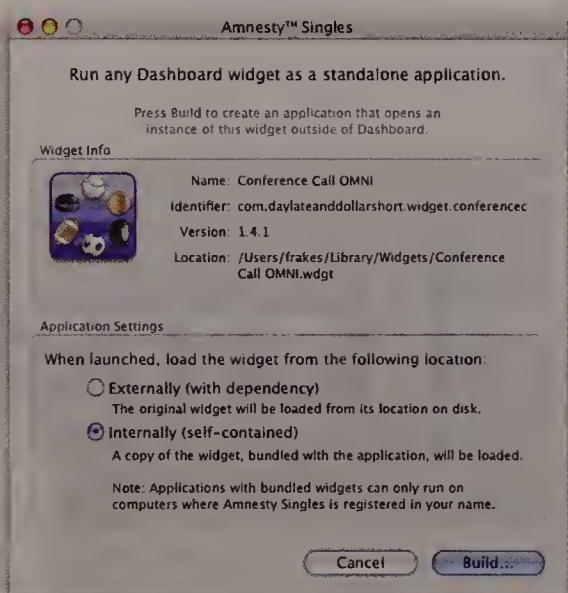
when tracks have numbers at the beginning of their names (for example, 03 *Track Name*); and when album names have a disc number at the end. In these cases, you just tell the script to delete the appropriate number of characters from the beginning or end of the appropriate field.

No Lyrics to Playlist This script finds all tracks without lyrics and places them in a new playlist. A second script is included that will automatically remove tracks from the playlist once you've added lyrics to them.

Search/Replace Tag Text As its name implies, this script lets you perform search-and-replace actions on particular tags.

This Tag, That Tag Scripts 1.7 This is a set of four scripts that lets you clean up tags on poorly labeled tracks; for example, you can swap the Artist and Track Name fields, or append the contents of one tag to the beginning or end of another.

All of these scripts are useful, but the amazing thing is that there are nearly 400 more. For all you iTunes users who have ever wished that iTunes would give you more control over your audio and video files, Doug's site is the best resource. □



Widgets Wherever Amnesty Singles lets you turn your favorite Dashboard widgets into standard Mac OS X applications.

DAN FRANKS is a senior editor at *Macworld* and the senior reviews editor at *Playlistmag.com*. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.

RUGGED GOOD LOOKS.



LACIE RUGGED HARD DRIVE : DESIGN BY NEIL POULTON

Neil Poulton's inspiration for the Rugged design came from a Sci-Fi TV show about a hero named Captain Scarlet who drove the Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle. This futuristic 10-wheel drive, high-speed tank had a front bumper wrapped around its nose. It was tough, rugged and indestructible. With its internal hard disk mounted on four independent suspensions and its protective external bumper, the LaCie Rugged is the high-speed pursuit tank of hard drives. www.lacie.com

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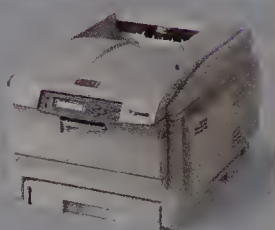
Go to www.macworld.com/reviews.

COLOR LASER PRINTERS

★★★★½ C6100dn

(\$1,102), from Oki Data
(www.okidata.com):

The Oki C6100dn produces great-looking prints, and it includes built-in duplexing. It has easy network connectivity and quick printing speeds (macworld.com/1670).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★ Magicolor 2430 DL (\$499), from Konica Minolta (www.konicaminolta.com):

At less than half the price of the Oki C6100dn, the Magicolor 2430 DL is network-ready and provides accurate color prints (macworld.com/0635).

INK-JET PHOTO PRINTERS

★★★★½ Stylus Photo R340

(\$200), from Epson
(www.epson.com):

The Epson Stylus Photo R340 prints the best color photos in its class, and it reproduces shadow detail extremely well. Its black-and-white prints are subpar, though (macworld.com/0948).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★½ Pixma iP6600D (\$200), from Canon
(www.canon.com):

The Pixma iP6600D prints great-looking photos with or without your Mac (macworld.com/0950).

FIREWIRE DRIVES

DESKTOP DRIVES

★★★★ G-Drive Q 500GB (\$559), from G-Technology (www.g-technology.com):

The G-Drive Q SATA hard drive has nearly every type of connection you could want. The Q stands for *quad*—referring to the four different types of data connectors on the drive. You'll find two FireWire 800 ports along with a FireWire 400, a USB 2.0, and a high-speed eSATA port. It operates without a fan, so the G-Drive Q is very quiet—you hear only the occasional spin of the drive (macworld.com/1622).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★½ d2 Extreme (\$259), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

With numerous connection options, a low price per gigabyte, and great performance, the LaCie d2 Extreme is a great value (macworld.com/1013).



PORTABLE DRIVE




★★★★ Rocbit 2B (\$230), from Roc-secure (www.rocsecure.com):

The Rocbit 2B, which has 40-bit encryption, is priced a bit higher than similar portable drives that lack encryption, but it's well worth the premium if security is a concern. In our tests, the Rocbit 2B was 6 to 31 percent faster than three comparable drives from other vendors (macworld.com/1443).





MACS

DESKTOP

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	More Information	Best Price ^A	Speedmark 4.5 Score ^B
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	17 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1727	\$890	202
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	17 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1728	\$1,101	232
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	20 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1729	\$1,374	245
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	24 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1730	\$1,699	245
	Intel Core Duo/1.66GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1731	\$555	152
	Intel Core Duo/1.83GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1732	\$699	165
	Intel Xeon/ two dual-core 2.66GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1646	\$2,325	299

PORTABLE

	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2387	\$1,014~	168
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2388	\$1,199	178
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz (black)	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2389	\$1,384	173
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	15 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2340	\$1,799	209
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz	15 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2341	\$2,249	226
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz	17 inches	not yet rated	macworld.com/2342	\$2,579	not yet tested

^AFrom a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of December 12, 2006. ^BSpeedmark 4.5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

MINIDV CAMCORDER

★★★★ PV-GS500 (\$1,000), from Panasonic
(www.panasonic.com):

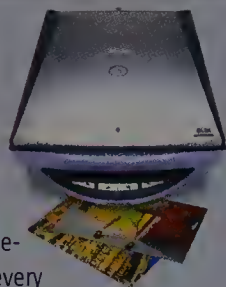
The PV-GS500 is a fine piece of equipment: It offers great control, excellent video quality, and broad operational flexibility. Although it's at the high end of the feature scale, it's moderately priced for what it offers, and it takes great-looking video and stills (macworld.com/1673).



FLATBED SCANNER

★★★★½ **CanoScan 9950F** (\$399), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The CanoScan 9950F offers improved scan quality and more-intuitive software controls. This model tops its predecessor, the 9900F, in almost every way—resolution, color accuracy, transparency, scan quality, and software interface (macworld.com/0188).



LCD MONITORS

21-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **MultiSync 2190UXi** (\$1,500), from NEC (www.necdisplay.com):

This display doesn't come cheap, but graphics pros will love the NEC MultiSync 2190UXi's vivid and accurate colors and wide viewing angle. Its height-adjustable stand means you won't need to stack ugly risers under the base of the monitor to raise it to your comfort level (macworld.com/1445).



20-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **MultiSync LCD2070NX** (\$799), from NEC (www.necdisplay.com):

The MultiSync LCD2070NX is great for people who want a moderately priced 20-inch monitor that can display bright, accurate colors. It sports digital and analog inputs, an integrated USB 2.0 hub, and a thin bezel (macworld.com/0636).



17-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ **UltraSharp 1707FP** (\$279), from Dell (www.dell.com):

Budget-conscious display shoppers won't be disappointed by this highly flexible 17-inch monitor that has a built-in USB hub. Its display of text is very good, and its color is pleasing. It has an impressive range of motion: it pivots, tilts, and swivels. The only problem is its limited viewing angle (macworld.com/1259).



DIGITAL CAMERAS

8-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★½ **EOS Digital Rebel XT** (\$899; with lens, \$999), from Canon (www.canon.com):

Canon defined this market with the original Digital Rebel, and the company keeps its lead with the EOS Digital Rebel XT. The Rebel XT is a very small camera—much smaller than the original Rebel. The XT's feature set, image quality, and price, combined with the vast assortment of available Canon mount lenses, make it the best choice in the sub-\$1,000 digital-SLR market (macworld.com/0535).



ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA

★★★★ **FinePix E900** (\$410), from Fujifilm (www.fujifilm.com):

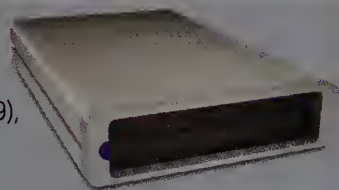
Digital camera resolution keeps increasing, and the Fujifilm FinePix E900 follows this trend as the first point-and-shoot camera we've seen with a 9-megapixel sensor. The FinePix E900 produces attractive images, with vivid, accurate colors and exposures, in a variety of lighting situations. It's no slouch in the features department either, with its long 4× optical zoom and Fujifilm's new Real Image Processor chip. This camera is a good choice for people who want the simplicity of a point-and-shoot camera and the ability to take control when necessary (macworld.com/1523).



DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

★★★★½ **d2 DVD±RW with LightScribe** (\$189), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

Whether you're looking to add DVD-burning capability to your system, looking for an easier way to copy optical discs, or just want the latest and fastest drives for burning DVDs—even dual-layer DVDs—the LaCie d2 can quickly and easily handle all of that and more (macworld.com/2263).



IN THE LAB

Hardware Products We Tested This Month

10.2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★ **D80** (body only, \$1,000), from Nikon (www.nikonusa.com):

The D80 delivers an excellent balance of features, image quality, and price. A top-mounted status LCD displays all the camera settings that you'll need for everyday shooting, and the camera includes a good assortment of external controls. The D80 produces excellent images with very good noise response across its ISO range (macworld.com/2337).



10.2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★½ **Alpha DSLR-A100K** (\$900), from Sony (www.sony.com):

The Sony Alpha DSLR-A100K, which includes a lens kit, is a very good camera albeit a little pricey. With technology acquired from the now defunct Konica Minolta, this camera has very good image quality and a full feature set, as well as some nice extras such as image stabilization and a continuous autofocus mode (macworld.com/2394).



COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER

★★★★ **Photosmart A716** (\$200), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

The HP Photosmart A716 has a multitude of nice features. It has a built-in hard drive, produces water- and smudge-resistant prints in a variety of sizes up to 4-by-12-inch panoramas, sports a handle, and can be powered by an optional battery. These features make the A716 attractive to people looking for an easy-to-use, portable photo printer (macworld.com/2395).



PORTABLE PHOTO PRINTER

★★★★ **PictureMate Flash PM 280** (\$300), from Epson (www.epson.com):

The Flash PM 280 offers the best-looking 4-by-6-inch borderless photos of all the portable photo printers we've tested. Its convenient handles make it easy to transport to most festive occasions (macworld.com/2396).



Cameras were tested in conjunction with the PC World Test Center.

Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we will update the list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are as rated. For the best current prices, go to macworld.pricegrabber.com. All products were available as of November 20, 2006.



THE 22ND
ANNUAL

Editors' Choice Awards

Every year, *Macworld* reviews hundreds of products, everything from Apple's newest desktops and laptops to little developers' little utilities that do things you never thought you needed done. But which ones were the most useful or innovative? Which ones will we still be using a year from now? Which ones were really the best—in terms of both quality and value? Answering these questions is what the Editors' Choice Awards are all about.

The yearly job of selecting Eddy winners starts in the fall, when every *Macworld* editor compiles a list of the most significant products released in the past year in his or her assigned areas of coverage. (Products released between November 1, 2005, and November 1, 2006, were considered for this year's Eddy Awards.)

We then convene a series of meetings to debate the merits of each nominee, and to separate the truly exceptional from the merely good. This year, we whittled a list of 120 products down to the 29 that you'll find extolled on the following pages. Some are obvious choices, and some may surprise you—but all represent the best of a very good year for the Mac market.

❖ PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER ❖

Best Hardware



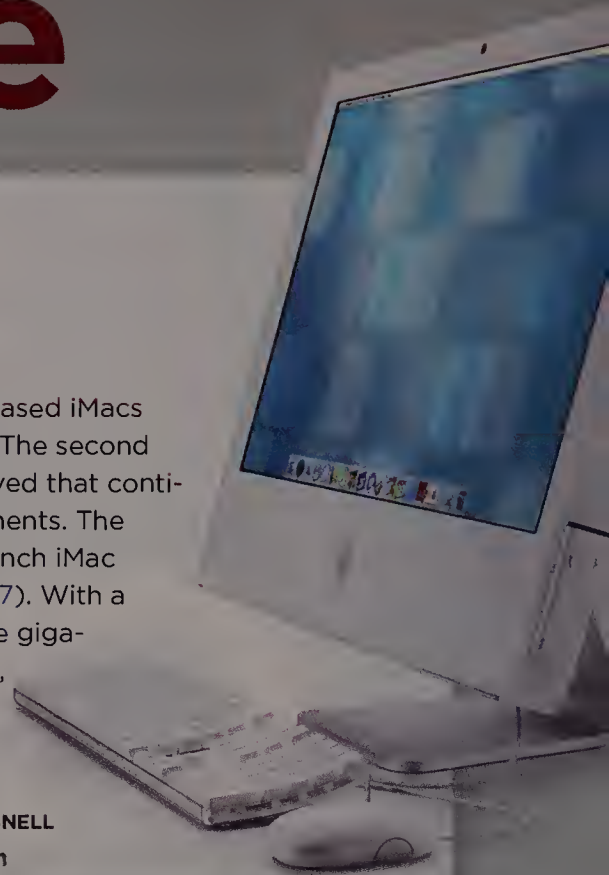
❖ PORTABLE MAC MacBook

Macworld editors see a lot of Apple hardware, so you might not expect us to get *excited* about new Macs. But the day Apple released its Intel-based consumer laptop, our offices were abuzz. Several of us went out that day and bought MacBooks (★★★★½; macworld.com/1478) with our own hard-earned cash. Why the love? The MacBook gives owners of iBooks and PowerBook G4s a powerful Intel-based replacement. Yes, there have been production flaws and firmware patches. But even the MacBook owners we know who've been bitten by such bugs still rave about how much they love their little laptops.—JASON SNELL
\$1,099 to 1,499; Apple Computer, www.apple.com

❖ DESKTOP MAC

24-Inch iMac Core 2 Duo

To everyone's relief, Apple's first Intel-based iMacs were, despite the new chips, still Macs. The second generation of Intel-based iMacs preserved that continuity while making some key improvements. The best example is the top-of-the-line 24-inch iMac Core 2 Duo (★★★★½; macworld.com/2377). With a 2.16GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, one gigabyte of RAM, a 250GB SATA hard drive, and a FireWire 800 port, this \$1,999 consumer Mac has more than enough computing power for all but the most demanding professional users.—JASON SNELL
\$1,999; Apple Computer, www.apple.com



❖ DESKTOP MAC

Mac Pro

Because Intel chips run cooler, the Power Mac-replacing Mac Pro (★★★★; macworld.com/1646) didn't have to devote as much internal space to cooling systems as the last Power Mac. That left room for more storage (up to four SATA hard drives at a time, for up to 3TB [terabytes] of storage), two optical drives (instead of the Power Mac's one), and some pretty cool graphics-card options. Of course, those chips did more than keep things cool: they allowed Apple to release its first Intel systems with four processing cores. The sum of all those parts is a to-die-for, high-performance workstation and a more than worthy successor to the venerable Power Mac.—DAN MILLER
\$2,499; Apple, www.apple.com

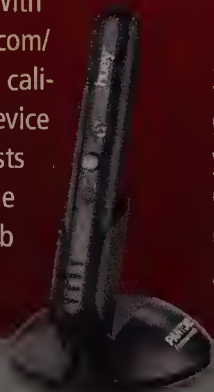


More Winners: Hardware

COLOR CALIBRATOR

Huey

Color calibrators—hardware-software combos that make sure your monitor is displaying colors accurately—have been standard tools among graphics professionals for years. With the \$89 huey (★★★★½; macworld.com/1580), Pantone has brought color calibration to the masses. The USB device measures ambient light and adjusts your monitor. You can optimize the settings for specific activities (Web browsing, photo editing, and so



on), and the huey will continually adjust your monitor in the background.—DAN MILLER
\$89; Pantone, www.pantone.com

MUSICIAN'S INTERFACE

TonePort UX2

Line 6's TonePort UX2 (★★★★½; macworld.com/2339) is the perfect companion for Mac-using guitar players, bass players, and singers. After you plug the TonePort into a USB port, the GearBox software lets you completely configure amp settings. You can save all your amp and effects setups for instant recall. Portable

enough to put in a backpack, the TonePort UX2 gives you the best tone possible at a pretty reasonable price.—JIM DALRYMPLE
\$269; Line 6, line6.com



MUSICAL SHOES

Nike + iPod Sport Kit

The iPod nano is a great exercise accessory, thanks to its diminutive size and flash memory. Nike's Nike + iPod Sport Kit (★★★★½; macworld.com)

❖ HARD DRIVE

G-Drive Q

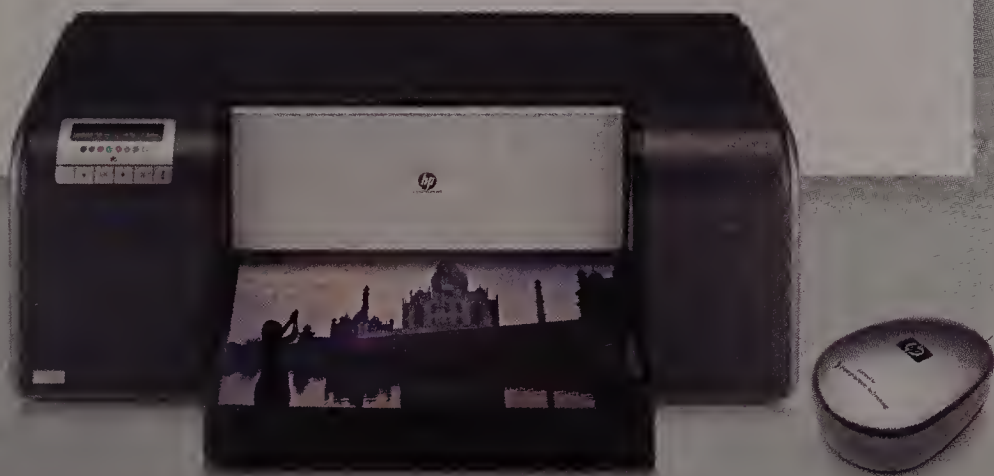
Only one of the desktop hard drives we tested in the past year garnered a five-mouse rating: the G-Drive Q (★★★★★; macworld.com/1622), from G-Technology. It's very versatile, with USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800, and eSATA connections. It doesn't require a driver and can be configured as a backup boot drive. That kind of flexibility seemed all the more impressive when we found that it was also quite speedy and nearly silent in operation. Plus, its aluminum exterior stylishly coordinates with Apple hardware. It wasn't the fastest or biggest drive we tested this year. But its combination of features makes it one of a kind.—ERIC SUESZ
\$559; G-Technology, www.g-technology.com



❖ PHOTO PRINTER

Photosmart Pro B9180

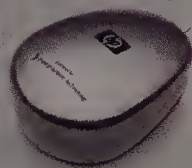
With eight pigment inks, including a gray ink for better black-and-white images, HP's Photosmart Pro B9180 (★★★★½; macworld.com/2384) creates gorgeous prints. Not bad—but that's a standard already set by Epson, long the acknowledged leader in the pro-quality photo-printer market. In designing the B9180, HP realized that it had to surpass the usability, features, and design of its rival's products—and it has. This printer comes with a Photoshop plug-in for quickly making prints; a simple manual-feed tray for thick papers; support for fine-art papers; and a built-in color densitometer (a first for a printer priced under \$1,000) that ensures consistent prints from day to day. Digital SLR cameras have revolutionized photography; the B9180 lets us turn those digital images into fine art.—RICK LEPAGE
\$500; Hewlett-Packard, www.hp.com



❖ INPUT DEVICE

Revolution Mice

An Eddy for mice? That won't seem so strange if you've ever used Logitech's new Revolution mice—the full-size MX (★★★★★; macworld.com/2338) and the portable VX. Both are comfortable and ergonomically correct. Both feature lots of programmable buttons and high-precision laser tracking. But what really sets these mice apart is the scroll wheel. Logitech's MicroGear Precision Scroll Wheel has a Free-spin mode: Flick your finger, and the wheel spins freely, scrolling through dozens of pages at a time. Gently touch the wheel, and scrolling stops immediately. Once you've tried it, you'll never go back.—DAN FRANKS
MX Revolution, \$99; VX Revolution, \$80; Logitech, www.logitech.com



[.com/2380](http://macworld.com/2380)) makes it an even better workout partner. A small transmitter attached to your running shoes tracks your movements and sends that data to your nano. As you run, your iPod provides feedback and encouragement. When you sync your iPod, iTunes sends your workout details to the Nike+ Web site, where you can set goals and compete with runners from around the world.—DAN FRANKS

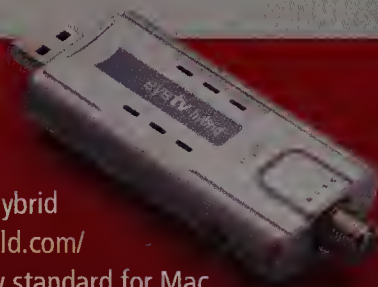
\$30; Nike, www.nikeplus.com



TV INTERFACE

EyeTV Hybrid

Elgato's EyeTV Hybrid (★★★★½; macworld.com/2317) sets a new standard for Mac TV tuners. While other companies offer tuners for either digital or analog reception, only the Hybrid gives you both. Best of all, the Hybrid is small enough to fit in your pocket, so you can watch TV on your Mac anywhere you can get a signal.—ERIC SUESZ
\$150; Elgato Systems, www.elgato.com



HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Sonos Digital Music System

The Sonos Digital Music System (★★★★★; macworld.com/0490), which lets you wirelessly stream music from your Mac to the rest of your house, impressed us when it made its debut in 2005. Its latest incarnation is even better. The new ZonePlayer 80 (★★★★★; macworld.com/2381) module lets you connect the Sonos system to your existing stereo.—DAN FRANKS
\$349 to \$1,499; Sonos, www.sonos.com



Best Hardware continued



❖ COMPACT CAMERA Coolpix S7c

Nikon's Coolpix S7c (★★★★; macworld.com/2386) is the first camera we've seen that makes e-mailing photos directly from the camera practically painless. Five minutes after opening the box, you'll be e-mailing your first photos. Just select the photos you want to send and then use the scroll

wheel to input e-mail addresses (the camera

stores 30)—and off they go. Recipients get an e-mail inviting them to go online to view a slide show or to download full-resolution photos. The 7-megapixel S7c is also compact, has a bright 3-inch screen, and corrects for camera shake. Someday, Wi-Fi will be common on cameras. This is a little taste of how that'll make digital photography easier.—KELLY TURNER

\$350; Nikon, www.nikonusa.com

❖ DIGITAL CAMCORDER PV-GS500

There are plenty of good video cameras out there. Panasonic's PV-GS500 (★★★★; macworld.com/1673) camcorder stands out—not necessarily because it has the best specs or performance, but because it does almost everything well and is reasonably priced.

You get excellent video quality (in both standard and 16:9 aspect ratios), thanks to a 3-CCD sensor and a Leica lens; effective image stabilization; impressive battery life; easy-to-use controls; and a fully manual mode for advanced users. The PV-GS500 also takes very nice photographs, thanks to its 4-megapixel still-image mode. If the PV-GS500 is too pricey for you, check out its GS300 and GS200 siblings, which offer many of the same features at lower prices.—DAN FRAKES

\$1,000; Panasonic, www.panasonic.com



❖ DIGITAL SLR CAMERA Nikon D80

The Nikon D80 (★★★★; macworld.com/2337) won't make headlines for technical innovation. Instead, it offers tremendous quality at a great price. The camera handles more like a high-end SLR than many of its similarly priced competitors. Beginning users will appreciate the camera's intuitive interface, while

experienced shooters will like its full range of controls and options. Everyone will benefit from the camera's 10-megapixel resolution and excellent image quality. The D80 also offers editing tools

that let you perform sophisticated corrections before you export shots to your Mac. With the D80, Nikon has raised the performance bar in the \$1,000-and-under market—and that's something even Canon devotees should applaud.—BEN LONG

\$1,000 (body only); Nikon, www.nikonusa.com

Readers' Choice Awards

Ever since we started letting *Macworld* readers dispense some end-of-year awards of their own, Apple has consistently (and not too surprisingly) had a stranglehold on the Readers' Choice Awards. In 2004 and 2005, *Macworld* readers—from our Web site and the Macworld Reader Panel—decided that Jobs and Company had made the best hardware and software of the year. In 2006, that winning streak comes to an end—thanks to a product that helps you run Windows on a Mac.



By an overwhelming margin, our readers declared that **Parallels Desktop for Mac** was the best software of the past 12 months. The ability to quickly and easily install Windows XP on an Intel-based Mac for cross-platform computing put Parallels Desktop far in front of the seven other finalists, including Apple's own

Boot Camp, which finished a distant second. Also receiving a chunk of votes were the 3-D-mapping application Google Earth and Apple's revamped iTunes 7 music and video player and organizer.

But don't feel too bad for Apple—it maintained its iron grip on the Readers' Choice trophy for hardware of the year.

In a tight three-way race, the 24-inch iMac Core 2 Duo edged out Apple's MacBook and MacBook Pro by the slimmest of margins. The strong showing by all of Apple's Intel-based hardware—including the close fourth-place-finishing Mac Pro—indicates that the Intel transition is going just fine.





iLuv™

How do iLuv you?

Let me count the ways...

Candies are sweet. Flowers are pretty. But, if there's no music, it's not love. True love is harmonies and melodies coming together to make beautiful music. So too, is iLuv. With a number of music-play options and features that seem unending, iLuv will let your Valentine sing along... and, at the same time, sing your praises. Long after the candy box has been emptied and the flowers have wilted, iLuv can keep the music playing, like true endless love. This year, make it iLuv!

iLuv is a trademark of iLuv Electronics Corp. iPod is a trademark of Apple Computer Inc. The Bluetooth word and Bluetooth logo are trademarks of Bluetooth SIG Inc. iPod is not included



The Innovations Design and Engineering Awards Selected in the portable electronics audio/video category and portable power category - i1055 / i603 & i604

7" Portable DVD / iPod with video Player | i1055

iLuv products are available at fine retailers like Best Buy, Circuit City, Target.com, J & R Music World, Staples and EXPO.



For more information on iLuv products, please call 1-866-807-5946 or 1-516-626-7188

www.i-Luv.com

Best Software

❖ DIGITAL MEDIA SUITE

iLife '06

We've given Eddys to individual iLife apps (such as iPhoto and GarageBand) before. But we've never awarded an Eddy to the whole suite—until now. This year, Apple did a stellar job not only of upgrading individual apps, but also of combining them into a coherent whole. iLife '06 offers some of the best tools available for producing single images, movies, DVDs, Web sites, music, and podcasts. That's not to say it's perfect. The newest iLife app, iWeb (★★★★½; macworld.com/1738), in particular has some annoying quirks. But those annoyances are offset by best-yet versions of iPhoto, GarageBand, iMovie, and iDVD. Put all that together, and you get the best iLife yet.—**JACKIE DOVE**

\$79; Apple, www.apple.com



❖ PRESENTATION SOFTWARE

Keynote 3

In 2003, Apple introduced Keynote. While the program brought a fresh approach to creating and editing presentations, it was missing some fundamental features. Keynote 3 (★★★★; macworld.com/1128), part of Apple's iWork '06 suite, effectively fills many of those holes. Now you can interleave graphics with text builds and put more than one bulleted list on a slide. Images can now be easily masked with any shape you can draw, a Bézier-curve drawing tool lets you create curved shapes, and you can add a semitransparent reflection to any graphic with one click. A virtual light table makes sorting and adding transitions to longer presentations much simpler. These and other new features, combined with Keynote's extremely friendly interface and professional-looking themes, have finally made the app a viable alternative to PowerPoint.—**ROB GRIFFITHS**

\$79 (as part of iWork '06 suite); Apple, www.apple.com

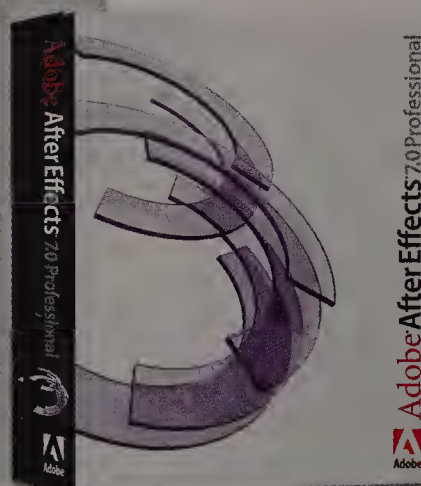


❖ MOTION GRAPHICS

After Effects 7 Professional

Adobe After Effects 7 Professional (★★★★½; macworld.com/1337) is a great update to an already powerful app. The new, unified interface solves the app's palette-bloat problem nicely, with dockable and groupable panels. Standard Adobe tools, palettes, menus, and customizable keyboard shortcuts make for a more familiar look-and-feel. There's added support for higher bit depths and HDR media. Add more-comprehensive and easier-to-apply presets, and After Effects 7 Professional is the best update this app has seen in years.—**JONATHAN SEFF**

\$999; Adobe, www.adobe.com



More Winners: Software

TELEPHONY PhoneValet Message Center 4.0



Previous editions of Parliant's PhoneValet Message Center have established the program as the premier telephone message-recording system for the Mac; version 4 (★★★★½; macworld.com/1344) has cemented that leadership position. The app now does a lot more than answer calls. It can also dial, record, log, and search through your calls; it'll also automatically forward them to your cell phone when you're on

the road. Yet PhoneValet is still one of those apps you can set up and never think about again.—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

\$170; Parliant, www.parliant.com

VIDEO CONVERTER

VisualHub 1.1

Techspansion's VisualHub (★★★★½; macworld.com/2390) lets you convert videos for use with fifth-generation iPods, optimized either for the iPod's 320-by-240-pixel screen or for the higher resolution of a TV. But

so do several other apps. What sets VisualHub apart is its versatility: it makes converting videos to AVI, DV, DVD, Flash, MPEG, MP4, PSP, and WMV easy. VisualHub is also much faster than QuickTime Pro at video conversion and works with files that QuickTime can't.—**JONATHAN SEFF**

\$23; Techspansion, visualhub.net

HARDWARE-RESTORATION UTILITY

Deep Freeze Mac 2.0

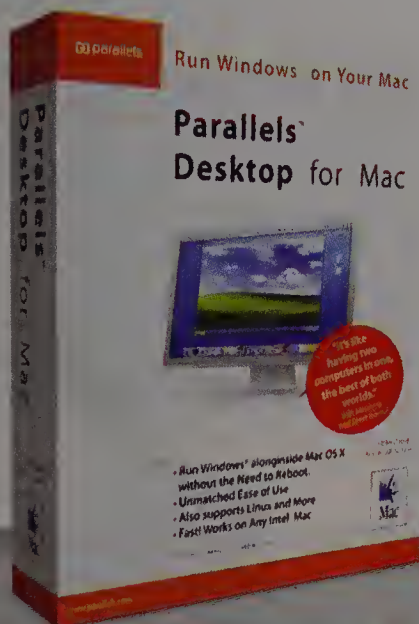
If you've ever tested bad software, downloaded a file you shouldn't have, or mucked about in Terminal with unpleasant results, or if you

❖ VIRTUALIZATION UTILITY

Parallels Desktop for Mac

Every so often, a product redefines its market segment. Parallels Desktop for Mac (★★★★; macworld.com/1577) is one such product. If you have an Intel-powered Mac, Parallels lets you run Windows and Unix-based operating systems on it at nearly native speeds. Depending on your Mac, Windows apps run anywhere from 80 to 95 percent of their native speed. (Try that, Virtual PC.) Unlike Apple's Boot Camp, Parallels doesn't force you to reboot or partition your hard drive. It'll even let you run multiple operating systems simultaneously. Parallels Desktop doesn't support full 3-D accelerated graphics and some hardware peripherals won't work properly with it. But if you need to use Windows on your Mac, Parallels Desktop is the easiest—and for most users, the best—solution available.—**ROB GRIFFITHS**

\$80; Parallels, www.parallels.com

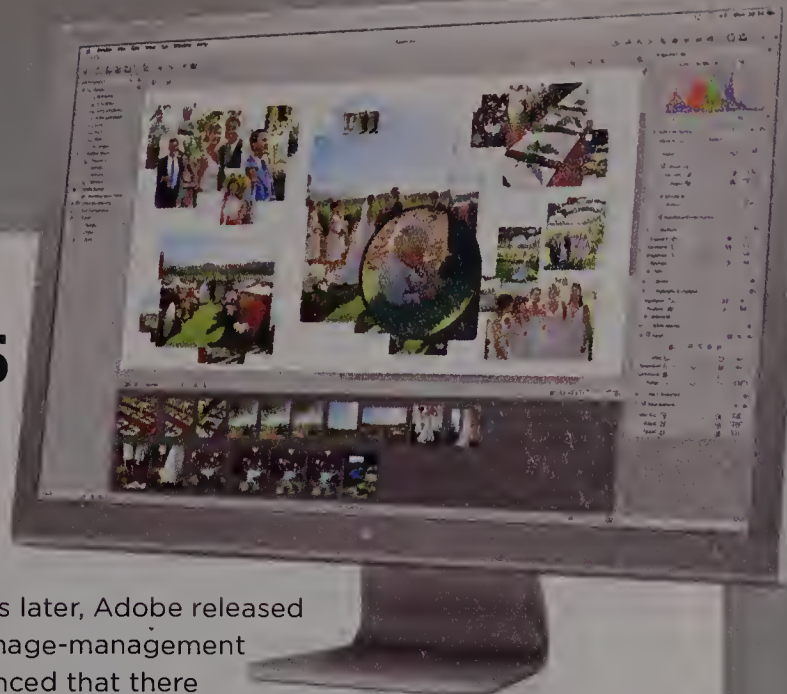


❖ PHOTO MANAGER

Aperture 1.5

Last November, Apple released Aperture 1.0, an entirely new photo-management and -editing application targeted at pro photographers. A few months later, Adobe released a Mac-only beta of its own image-management app—Lightroom—and announced that there would be plenty more to come. (The official Adobe Lightroom release is scheduled for early 2007). That competition has put Mac photographers in a particularly sweet spot. Apple responded to Lightroom by dropping Aperture's price by \$200, releasing two significant (and free) updates, and offering a free trial version of the software. Aperture 1.5 (★★★★; macworld.com/2306) has some kinks for Apple to iron out, but its powerful management tools, nondestructive raw-image workflow, and competitive spirit have given the digital photography world a much needed kick.—**KELLY TURNER**

\$299; Apple, www.apple.com



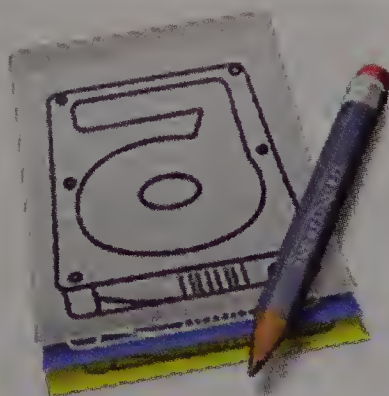
❖ BACKUP UTILITY

SuperDuper 2.1

Last year, we gave Shirt Pocket's SuperDuper 1.5 an Eddy because, in its first year, it had already become an indispensable tool for creating bootable hard-drive backups and for migrating between different Mac systems. Version 2 (★★★★; macworld.com/2325) has made SuperDuper even more useful. It now offers scheduled backups,

improved scripting, and better options for creating disk images. But our favorite improvement is SuperDuper's impressive new interface design: while most backup and disk-utility programs are unfriendly at best, SuperDuper 2 uses plain, easy-to-understand language to explain what's going to happen (based on the options you've selected) before you start your backup.—**JASON SNELL**

\$28; Shirt Pocket, www.shirt-pocket.com



manage a bunch of Macs whose users do all that and more, you've probably wished you had a magic Undo command that could reverse the damage. That's exactly what Faronics's Deep Freeze Mac 2.0 (★★★★; macworld.com/1242) does. It starts by taking a snapshot of your system in its clean state. After that, you can install software, create and save files, change settings, and do pretty much anything else you normally do. When you restart the Mac, Deep Freeze will discard all those changes and return the sys-



tem to its original, clean condition. Deep Freeze has been available on the Windows platform for years; this year, it came to the Mac. You may not need it. But it will be essential for some people.—**JOHN RIZZO**

\$30; Faronics, www.faronics.com

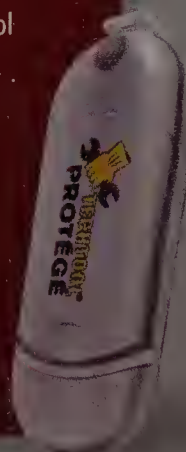
TROUBLESHOOTING TOOL

TechTool Protégé

If you've ever had a computer problem on the road, you know how essential it is to have a bootable emergency drive. The TechTool Protégé

(★★★★; macworld.com/2385) is just that: a thumb-sized, flash-memory-based, 1GB FireWire drive that's preloaded with essential troubleshooting utilities (Micromat's \$99 TechTool Pro and \$50 DiskStudio; Apple's Disk Utility, Terminal, and System Profiler; and whatever troubleshooting utilities you want to add). Plug the Protégé into your Mac's FireWire port and use it to boot, and then use the utilities to diagnose and repair your system. Protégé's FireWire connection means booting is

continues



Best Software continued

❖ WEB SITE

YouTube

Video on the Web isn't new—nor are tagging, commenting on, or linking to videos. But combine those elements and make it easier than ever to play and upload video clips, and you have something that'll take the Web by storm. Officially launched in December 2005, YouTube did just that in the space of one short year. Sure, you can watch only so many clips of college students lip-syncing Cher's "If I Could Turn Back Time." But now instead of trying to describe that hilarious *Daily Show* sketch to your friends, you can send them a link. Instead of sending your relatives a 5MB QuickTime file of your baby's first steps, you can simply upload your video and send out a URL. Groups, channels, playlists, and subscriptions make it easy to share your videos with the world. And it still doesn't cost a dime.—CURT POFF

free; YouTube,
www.youtube.com



❖ MAPPING APP

Google Earth

When Google released a Mac version of Google Earth (★★★★; macworld.com/2379) at the January 2006 Macworld Conference & Expo, the buzz it generated rivaled that of any innovations coming out of Cupertino. After just a few minutes with the 3-D-mapping and -navigation software, you'll see why. Google Earth gives you a bird's-eye view of any place on the planet, a view you can tilt, pan, and rotate. As with Google Maps, you can punch in an address to get driving directions or find nearby eateries. And the application's vibrant online community is constantly augmenting the program. Google Earth remains in perpetual beta, but this full-featured app opens up a whole world of possibilities.—PHILIP MICHAELS

free; Google, earth.google.com

❖ GAME

WingNuts 2: Raina's Revenge

Freeverse's follow-up to its 2001 arcade-style action game WingNuts, WingNuts 2: Raina's Revenge (★★★★½; macworld.com/2247), has the same basic format as the original: while traveling through time, you shoot down squadron after squadron of robot-controlled airplanes—everything from old propeller planes and zeppelins to futuristic high-tech fighters. Combine Freeverse's trademark sense of humor with top-notch production quality (OpenGL is used to great effect), and you have a game that's fun, challenging, beautiful to look at, and delightful to play. Oh, and WingNuts 2 is a Mac original—how many games can we say that about these days?—PETER COHEN

\$30; Freeverse, www.freeverse.com

More Winners: Software continued

fast. Troubleshooting has never been so easy or so portable.—DAN FRANKS

\$229; Micromat, www.micromat.com

AUDIO EDITOR

Fission

Audio-editing applications were once the exclusive province of audio engineers and tech-savvy musicians.

Now, thanks to the iPod, iTunes, streaming media, and podcasting, nearly every modern Mac user has a reason to muck with music. This



year, Rogue Amoeba gave us amateurs an easy, inexpensive way to edit our audio files: Fission (★★★★; macworld.com/2383). Boasting an intuitive interface, Fission lets you trim, split, and fade common audio files, such as MP3, AAC, Apple Lossless, and AIFF, in their native formats.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

\$30; Rogue Amoeba, www.rogueamoeba.com

GAME

Dimenxian

Education software is often as appealing to kids as a trip to the principal's office. The folks at Tab-

ula Digita have come up with a novel alternative: Dimenxian (★★★★; macworld.com/2382), a pre-algebra and algebra tutor in the guise of a first-person shooter. The

game starts you on the surface of a remote island. You can run around and shoot things—but to do so, you have to complete a series of tasks that help develop math skills. Tabula Digita's slogan: "Learn math or die trying."—PETER COHEN

\$30; Tabula Digita, www.tabuladigita.com



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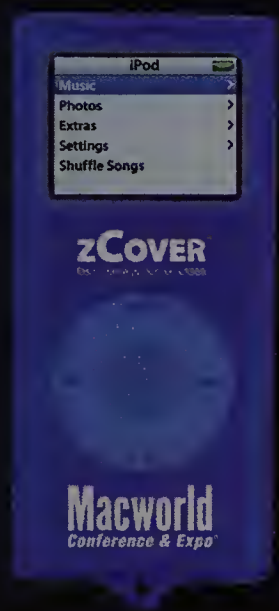
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 Functionality with Elegance, Technology with Inspiration

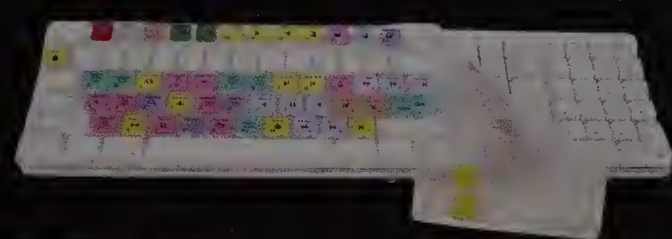
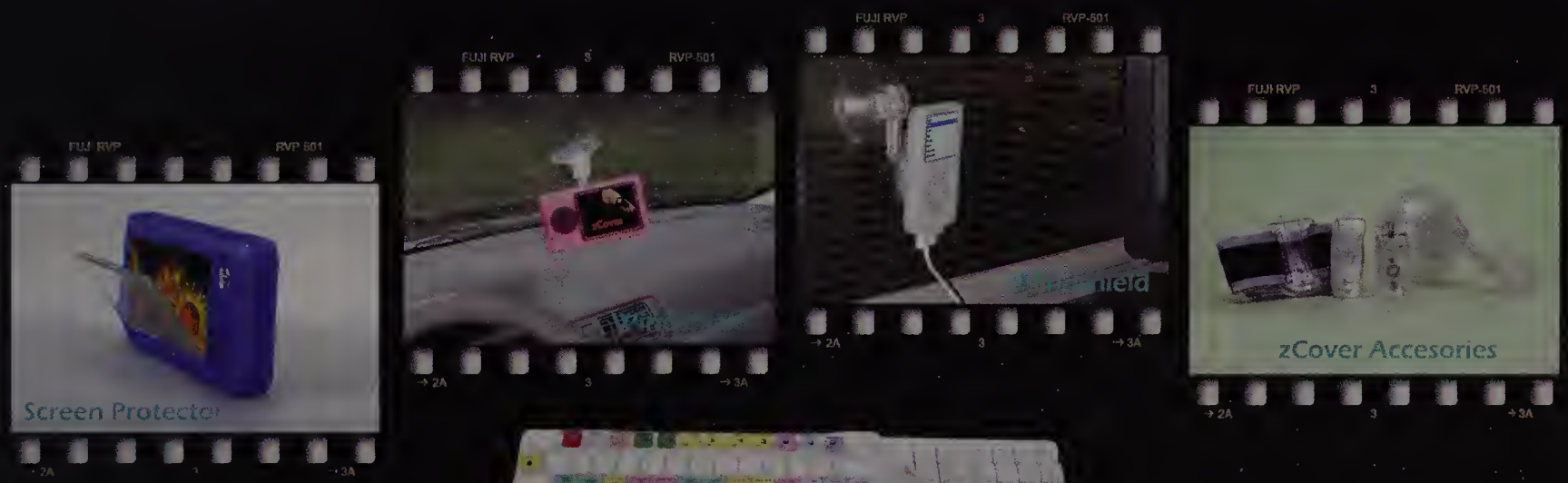
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THE

WEB

For most of us, the Web is as essential a tool as our word processors, e-mail clients, and photo-editing software. Yet even if you consider yourself a Mac pro, you can sometimes feel like a newbie when it comes to navigating this massive resource. There's no need to suffer from information overload. With our tips for searching the Net more effectively, using your browser more efficiently, and taking advantage of RSS to get information fast, you can zero in on exactly what you're looking for without wasting time.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARC MATTHEWS



FIND THE GOOD STUFF FAST

BY SARAH MILSTEIN



The Web may be the modern world's greatest non-natural resource, but it's not worth much when you can't find the information you need or the entertainment you want. Of course, you can hit pay dirt pretty often just by running a basic Google search. But as the Web grows larger every day, you can easily sink hours into frustrating failed searches. Refine your searches and get more from the Web by using these handy tips and tools.

NARROW THE FIELD

Most searches yield too many results, not too few. To accurately pinpoint what you seek, write a query that looks for a precise target. It might sound complicated, but, in fact, it's surprisingly easy. One often overlooked way to filter out the flotsam is to use negation. Simply type a minus sign (-) in front of a word or phrase to search for Web pages that *don't* include the negated term.

For example, typing *poseidon* into a search engine yields pages devoted to the ancient god of the sea, as well as pages about the popular movies *Poseidon* and *The Poseidon Adventure*. A search for *poseidon -movie* keeps the movies out

of your results, so you can focus on the Greek god. For more indispensable query tips, see macworld.com/2350.

LOCATE LOCAL BUSINESSES

You've just moved to a new city, and you need dog food—fast! You used to use the Yellow Pages to find this sort of information. Nowadays, you can use Google to get business listings anywhere in the United States, along with maps and sometimes reviews.

Just run a Google search that includes the city and state or zip code (for example, *dog food mill valley ca*). At the top of your results page, you'll find a couple of business listings, along with a

More Local Results link. Click on this link to get a longer list of results and a map showing where each business is located.

GET AN ANSWER

When you're looking for answers and related info, try Ask.com. For example, if you type *What's the capital of France?* into its search box, the first entry on the response page answers your question and provides links to more information, including the World

Factbook, a page of maps, and more. If you pose the same question on Google, you'll get your answer, but it'll be mixed in with a bunch of results involving France and capital markets.

SEARCH THE BLOGOSPHERE

When you want to find out what bloggers are chirping about, try Google Blog Search (blogsearch.google.com). Search for a topic (personal finance, for example) to get a list of blogs about it. Or search for a person (say, MC Hammer) to get a list of blogs by that person, along with sites that mention him or her and sites where she or he has posted.

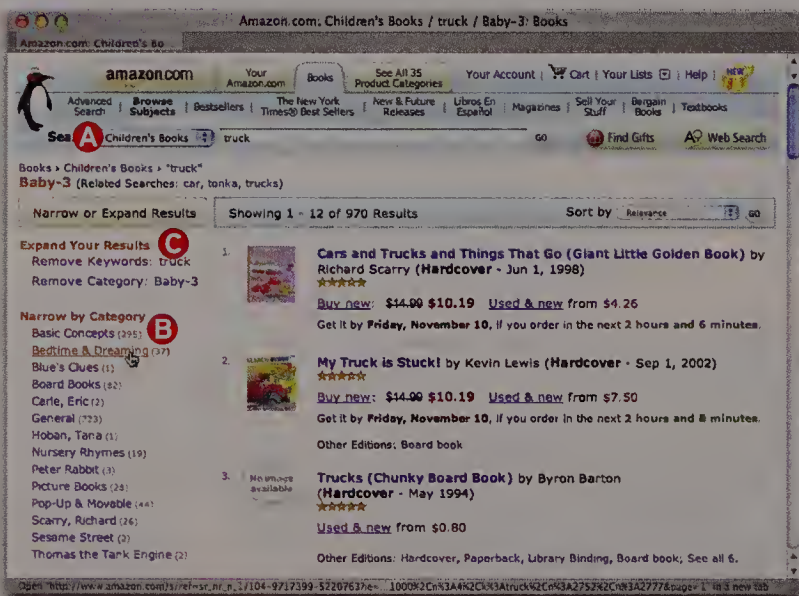
Links along the left side of the Google Blog Search results page let you narrow your results by date—handy if you're looking for a particular post by a prolific blogger, or if you're trying to find a bunch of blogs that commented on a past event. Still not finding what you want? For an alternative blog search, try Technorati (www.technorati.com).

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Librarians say that more and more people are using Amazon.com to figure out which books they want to borrow before they even hit the library. What gives? It's Amazon's Search Inside feature, which lets you browse excerpts and search the full text of many tomes. Not all publishers allow their books to work with this feature, so not all books are searchable; look for the Search Inside logo at the top of a book's cover image. Google Book Search (books.google.com) also lets you search a lot of books.

HOME IN ON THE RIGHT BOOK

Can't find the book you want among Amazon's thousands of offerings? If



Tame the Amazon Zero in on the book you're looking for by using Amazon.com's not-so-obvious categories. You can access some of the broadest ones through the Search pull-down menu **A**. Narrow the search by adding more categories **B**, or broaden it by removing them **C**.



Mighty Maps Whether you're looking for a U.S. map of everyone who has the frequently banned book *1984* in their Amazon.com wish lists, or are trying to find a reasonably priced place to park in New York City, ProgrammableWeb helps you search for interesting *mashups*—Web applications that combine data from different sources.

you're looking for something on a certain topic, use Amazon's not-so-obvious categories. From the Amazon home page, choose Books from the Search pop-up menu and type in your term—say, trucks. If you don't see what you want on the page that appears, narrow your search by choosing a subcategory from the now more-specific Search pop-up menu, such as Children's Books. To the left of your search results, you'll see even more ways to narrow your search—for example, by age (see "Tame the Amazon").

MORE THAN DIRECTIONS

Want a map that shows you the location of all the parking garages in Manhattan and then lets you compare daily or monthly rates? Try www.nycgarages.com. How about a site that lets you calculate the per-passenger greenhouse-gas emissions created by an airline flight between any two U.S. airports? Go to macworld.com/2351. To find hundreds of maps with integrated information (many

also have calculators), head to ProgrammableWeb (www.programmableweb.com) and click on the Mashups tab. (A *mashup* is a Web site or Web application that combines content from more than one source.) Click on any of the Top Tags links listed on the right side of the page to find great sites (see "Mighty Maps"). Or if you're looking for something specific, click on the Search tab and type a term into the search field.

EXPAND YOUR SEARCH

Microsoft's new search site, Live Search (search.live.com), is a top-notch search engine that generally produces a very useful set of Related Searches links. If you search for fantasy football, for example, you get not only ten million sites that mention stats, but also, on the right side of the page, suggestions for related searches, such as Fantasy Football League, Fantasy Football Advice, Fantasy Football Software, and so on. It's a great way to find more information.

SEARCH THE RIGHT SITE

When you're looking for something specific, you don't have to use a general search engine. Here are some top sites that focus on a single topic.

To Find Info About	Search Here	Notes
Consumer Electronics	www.retrevo.com	Get product reviews from around the Web, and search inside product manuals for many gadgets.
Local Businesses	www.yelp.com	If you live in one of the 24 major U.S. cities this site covers, you can look for recommended local businesses or contribute personal reviews.
Podcasts	www.plugged.com	Search or browse podcasts by topic. The site will also suggest podcasts you might like. (Two other great options are Podzinger.com and Odeo.com.)
Travel	www.kayak.com	Compare prices for flights, hotels, car rentals, and packages.
Video	www.blinx.com	Search millions of hours of videos from about 75 providers, including YouTube and many other major media outlets.
Weird Stuff	www.reddit.com	Search, submit, and vote on oddball sites, stories, and videos from around the Web.

INCREASE YOUR SEARCH SAVVY

Here are two ways to customize your browser to fit the way you search.

1 Get Googlepedia If you often find answers on Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia, then you need James Hall's Googlepedia (macworld.com/2352). Each time you perform a Google search, this free extension for Mozilla Firefox saves you a step by displaying the most closely related Wikipedia article to the right of your regular Google search results.

2 Tailor Your Search Field Whether you frequently search the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com) or Ask.com, it's easy to add more sites to Firefox's search bar. Just go to the Search Engines page (macworld.com/2353) and click on any of the 22 sites listed there to add one. Users of Apple's Safari can pump up their Google-only search bar by using Robin Hamilton-Pennell's free add-on AcidSearch (www.pozytron.com).—SCHOLLE SAWYER McFARLAND

USE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

A lot of the great stuff that lives on the Web is kept in places that normal search engines can't find easily or at all. For specialized databases of newspaper and magazine articles (often including the articles' full text), academic abstracts, and much more, try your local library's Web site. Most public libraries let anyone use at least some of their online resources, but in many cases, you'll need a library-card number to use all of a library's online materials. For a sense of what you can find on many libraries' sites, check out the New York Public Library online (www.nypl.org).

FIND OLD WEB PAGES

When the page you want is no longer live, try the Wayback Machine (www.archive.org). Search by URL, and the site gives you links sorted by the date that the Wayback Machine indexed the page. Click on a link to head to the Wayback machine's cached copy of that page. On the bottom of the Advanced Search page, you'll find tips for searching the archive, which, at press time, includes about 55 billion Web pages.

BE A POWER BROWSER

BY KIRK McELHEARN



Count the number of Web sites you visit daily, and you'll realize that learning even a few ways to streamline your surfing could save you loads of time. I've gathered some great tips, as well as a collection of the most-useful keyboard shortcuts for Apple's Safari and Mozilla's Firefox (see "Speed Surfing").

CUT DOWN ON CLICKS

There's no need to click on the back arrow repeatedly when you want to return to a page that you checked out earlier. Instead, use the hidden power of the back and forward arrows. If you're using Safari 2 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2354), click and hold on either arrow to see a list of the names of the pages you've visited. (If you prefer to choose from a list of URLs, option-click and hold.) Select a page from the list to hop there right away. Press ⌘ as you select one to open the page in its own tab.

If you're using Firefox 2 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2415), click and hold on the tiny triangle next to the back or forward

arrow to see a list of the pages you've browsed recently. Select one to open it, or open it in its own tab by pressing ⌘ while selecting its name. If you have a scroll-wheel mouse or an Apple Mighty Mouse, Firefox offers one more time-saver—hold down the option key and scroll down to see pages you've already viewed, or scroll up to go back through your history to more recently visited pages.

DO THE TIME WARP

The forward and back buttons can help you find pages you've visited today, but what about one you visited last week? That's a job for the History menu. Unfortunately, scrolling through that menu, and its many submenus, can be a real pain. Search your browsing history instead.

In Safari, click on the Bookmarks icon in the Bookmarks bar (it looks like an open book), select Bookmarks: Show All Bookmarks, or press ⌘-option-B. Choose History in the Collections column, and click in the search box at the bottom of the window. Type what you remember of the site's name or URL (you can even

type just the end of the domain—for instance, .org). As you type more information, the list of sites will shorten. Double-click on one to open it. If you use Firefox, select History: Show In Sidebar, or press ⌘-shift-H. You'll see a search field above a list of folders organized by day. Type into that field, and then double-click on the page you want to open.

TRY SHOW-AND-TELL TABS

Tabbed browsing is a great way to keep multiple pages open without making a mess of your screen. But once you have a bunch of pages open, their titles may not be enough to help you find the one you're looking for. The Omni Group's \$30 OmniWeb 5 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2355) lets you navigate multiple tabs at a glance, using *graphic tabs*. Graphic tabs display a thumbnail of each page, as well as its title, in a drawer to the side of your browser window (see "Tabs in View"). Just click on a thumbnail to switch to that page, or hover your cursor over a thumbnail to view its name and full URL. You can shrink the thumbnails into simple names by clicking on the list-view icon above the drawer. In both views, press ⌘-up arrow or ⌘-down arrow to flip through the tabs.

SIZE IT RIGHT

You probably know that you can increase the font size of squint-inducing Web pages by pressing ⌘-equal sign (=) in Safari or Firefox. And you might even know that in OS X 10.4.8 (and in earlier versions if you have a Mighty Mouse), you can use the Mouse & Keyboard preference pane to improve your vision even more. Just select the Zoom Using Scroll Wheel option and then hold down the control key while scrolling to zoom in on and out from

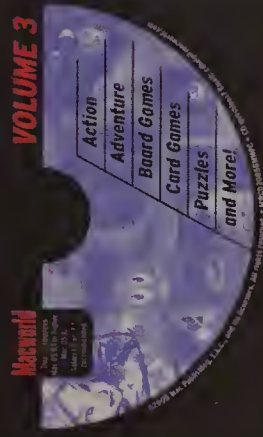


Tabs in View OmniWeb's graphic tabs make spotting the page you want to switch to a snap. Each one is a thumbnail image of the page's actual content.

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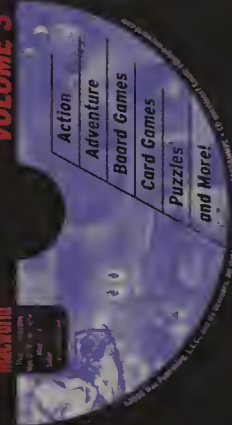
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your Web pages (and anything else on your screen).

But OmniWeb goes one step further, allowing you to set site-specific preferences and sparing you the hassle of repeatedly adjusting the font size of a site you visit regularly. Click on the Preferences icon in the program's toolbar, and a pane opens at the bottom of the page. Here you can set font-size, image-loading, and style-sheet preferences. You can also choose from various ad-blocking and language settings.

GET THE WHOLE PICTURE

It's a cinch to save any Web page as a PDF file; just press ⌘-P , click on the PDF button in the Print dialog box, and choose Save As PDF. The only trouble is that this creates a PDF file broken into separate printable pages, not a true replica of the entire Web page. What if you need an exact copy? For instance, important graphics might be cut in half by these page breaks, and Web designers sometimes need to show complete pages to clients.

A hidden shortcut lets OmniWeb users save a Web page as an unbroken PDF: hold down the option key and select the File menu, and then select Save As PDF. But a file saved this way won't include any background graphics. To get the whole picture, try Nate Weaver and Johan Sørensen's free Paparazzi (ⓧ macworld.com/2358), which lets you save any Web page as a PDF, JPEG, PNG, or TIFF file. Brain Tickling Software's S18 SnapWeb 4.0 (macworld.com/2359) goes even further, offering additional graphic formats (GIF and PSD), text, and HTML, as well as the ability to save an image file of a page directly to the Clipboard. For PDFs, you can choose between simple images and text PDFs, which you can later search for specific words.

ORGANIZE BOOKMARKS

Are your bookmarks a jumble of Web site names in seemingly random order? Make finding the right one easier by organizing them into folders. In Safari, select Book-

[SPEED SURFING]

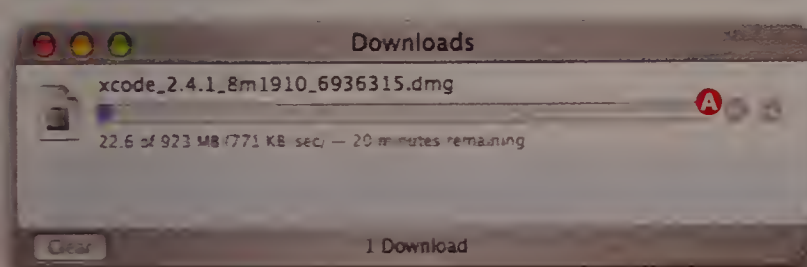
Here are some of the most useful shortcuts for Apple Safari and Mozilla Firefox. For a few of them to work in Safari, you must turn on tabbed browsing by going to Safari: Preferences, clicking on Tabs, and choosing the Enable Tabbed Browsing option. For an unabridged version of this table, go to macworld.com/2372.

Action	Safari Shortcut	Firefox Shortcut
Open new window	⌘-N	⌘-N
Open new tab	⌘-T	⌘-T
Open link in new window	⌘-option-click	shift-click
Open link in new tab	⌘-shift-click^A	⌘-click
Stop loading page	⌘-period (.) or escape	⌘-period (.) or escape
Reload page	⌘-R	⌘-R or F5
Go back one page	⌘-[or delete or ⌘-left arrow	⌘-[or delete or ⌘-left arrow
Go forward one page	⌘-] or ⌘-right arrow	⌘-] or ⌘-right arrow
Open Home page	⌘-shift-H	option-home
Select the search field	⌘-option-F	no shortcut
Find text in page	⌘-F	⌘-F
Select next tab	$\text{⌘-shift-}]$ or $\text{⌘-shift-right arrow}$	control-tab or $\text{⌘-option-right arrow}$
Select previous tab	⌘-shift-[or $\text{⌘-shift-left arrow}$	control-shift-tab or $\text{⌘-option-left arrow}$
Add bookmark	⌘-D	⌘-D
Show bookmarks	⌘-option-B	⌘-B
Increase text size	⌘-equal sign (=)	⌘-equal sign (=)
Decrease text size	⌘-minus sign (-)	⌘-minus sign (-)
E-mail contents of page	⌘-I^B	no shortcut
E-mail link to current page	⌘-shift-I	no shortcut
Scroll down one screen	page down or spacebar	spacebar
Scroll up one screen	page up or shift-spacebar	shift-spacebar
Go to bottom of page	⌘-down arrow	end
Go to top of page	⌘-up arrow	home

^AThis shortcut will be ⌘-click if you've gone to Safari: Preferences and selected the Select New Tabs As They Are Created option. ^BThis feature doesn't work with Microsoft Entourage.

marks: Show All Bookmarks (or press ⌘-option-B) and click either on Bookmarks Bar or on Bookmarks Window in the Collections column. Create a new folder by clicking on the plus sign (+) at the bottom of the window. Select the folder, press enter, and name it. Then drag the appropriate bookmarks into it.

Organizing your bookmarks is essentially the same in Firefox 2. Select Bookmarks: Organize Bookmarks. (In earlier versions of Firefox, select Bookmarks: Manage Bookmarks.) In the window that appears, add a folder to the Bookmarks window by selecting Bookmarks in the list on the left and then clicking on the New Folder button in the toolbar. Name the folder and then drag the appropriate bookmarks into the folder. To add a folder to Firefox's Bookmarks toolbar, create one anywhere and then click on the Move button. Choose Bookmarks Toolbar Folder in the window that appears.



Stop That Train Is that download you started too large or too slow? Click on the X icon in Safari's downloads window Ⓐ to stop it. To restart it, click on the orange curly arrow that replaces the X.

HOP TO THE RIGHT BOOKMARK

Sure, you can access your bookmarks from your browser's Bookmarks menu, but that requires a bunch of clicks. You can do the same from the one-click Bookmarks bar (or Bookmarks toolbar in Firefox), but it can get crowded fast. If you keep a lot of Safari bookmarks, use Spotlight (⌘-spacebar) to search for the right one. Type either the name of the bookmark or part of the URL in the Spotlight search field. Too many hits? To narrow

the field, include the text `kind:bookmark` in your search. To open a bookmark, click on it in the Spotlight menu. Firefox users can select View: Sidebar: Bookmarks to open a drawer, to the side of the browser window, that holds a useful list of your bookmarks and a search field.

HALT THOSE DOWNLOADS

Ever started to download something and then regretted it because the file was bigger than you expected? With Safari's

Downloads window, you can stop and restart downloads whenever you need bandwidth. Just click on the X icon to stop the download and then click on the resulting orange arrow icon to restart it (see "Stop That Train"). You can also restart downloads by double-clicking on the *.download* file that's stored on your desktop, in your downloads folder. (Not all downloads will restart from where they left off; some will start over from the beginning.)

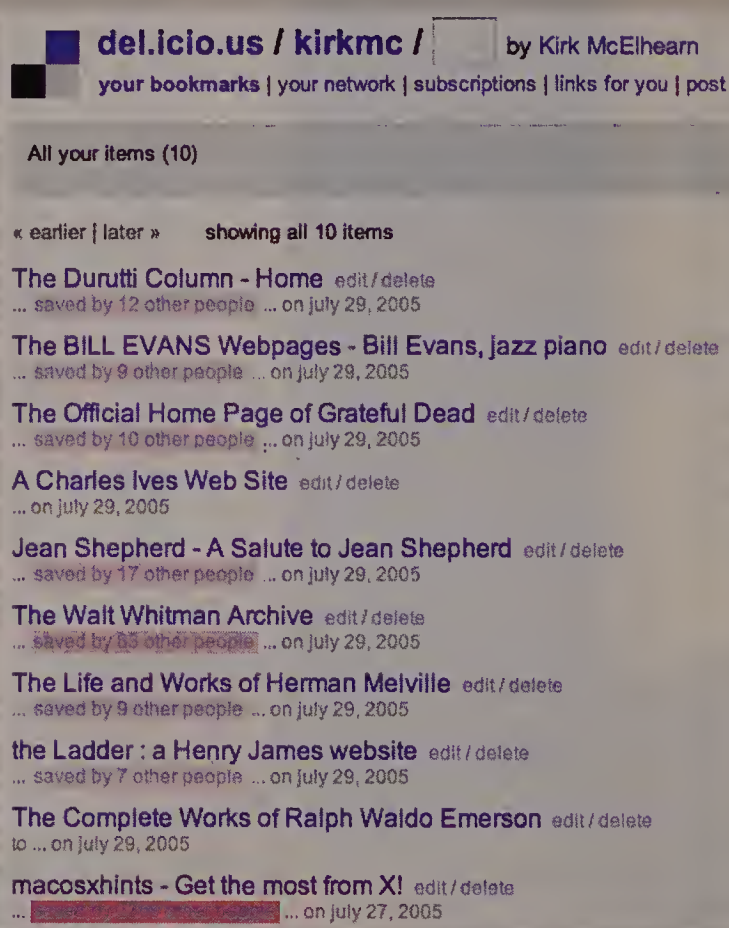
[USE BOOKMARKS ANYWHERE]

Bookmarks serve as your electronic memory of the Web.

When you encounter a page you know you'll want to revisit, press ⌘-D in Safari or Firefox to add the site to the Bookmarks menu, or drag its address from the address bar to the Bookmarks bar (in Safari; the Bookmarks toolbar in Firefox). But once you've gathered important bookmarks, how can you use them on your different computers and, if necessary, in different browsers?

Sync Them Up If you use many computers but just one browser, a number of tools can help you sync your bookmarks so they're the same wherever you go. Among its other features, Apple's \$100-per-year .Mac service (www.mac.com) lets you sync your Safari bookmarks across different Macs. When you sync to .Mac from, say, your desktop Mac, you can configure your MacBook Pro to pick up the changes, so you'll have everything with you on the road. You can also access all your Safari bookmarks online, from the .Mac Web site. (For more information, see "Keeping Your Macs in Sync" at macworld.com/1599.)

If you use Firefox, Foxmarks' free Foxmarks Bookmarks Synchronizer (macworld.com/2366) syncs your bookmarks to a special Web site, my.foxmarks.com. You can then access all your bookmarks from any computer. Similarly, Google's free Google Browser Sync (macworld.com/2360), lets you synchronize bookmarks, passwords, cookies, history, tabs, and windows. It can even encrypt some of your sensitive data, such as passwords and cookies.



Tasty Bookmarks When you add a bookmark to del.icio.us, you can access it from anywhere. But this site also helps you discover new sites by letting you see the bookmarks of other people who have bookmarked your favorite sites.

Use a Systemwide Manager If you use many different browsers, consider using a systemwide bookmark manager. Some store the bookmarks themselves, and others access the bookmarks you've saved across different browsers. Everyday Software's \$12 Bookit 3.7.1 (ⓂⓂⓂⓂⓂ; macworld.com/2361) not only lets you work with bookmarks you've saved in each of your browsers, but also syncs bookmarks from one browser to another—so if you use different browsers, you can have the same set of book-

marks for each. You can access its bookmarks from a menu extra or from the Dock, as well as from within the program itself.

Happy Apps' \$25 WebnoteHappy (macworld.com/2362) organizes bookmarks from Safari, Firefox, and OmniWeb, and it lets you add tags and notes, so they're easier to find later. You can also search for names, URLs, tags, and titles. Use smart folders to sort your bookmarks by keywords.

Manage Bookmarks Online

If you spend a lot of time moving around and working on different computers, what could be more convenient than organizing your bookmarks on the Web?

Google Bookmarks (www.google.com/bookmarks) and Yahoo Bookmarks (bookmarks.yahoo.com) both offer basic services for storing bookmarks online. Both require that you add bookmarks manually, but you can do so from any Web browser on any computer (or operating system).

Take things a step further with del.icio.us (del.icio.us). This social bookmark manager lets you add

bookmarks to a personal Web page, but that's just the beginning. When you view your bookmarks, you can see how many other people have bookmarked the same pages, and then check their lists to find other interesting Web sites. You can also share your bookmarks.

Add new bookmarks to del.icio.us by using a bookmarklet button. From your Bookmarks bar or toolbar, click on the bookmarklet button to add the site. Or upload all the bookmarks you've already saved in your browser.



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MAKE THE NEWS COME TO YOU

BY KIRK McELHEARN



Whether you're a news nut or just like to visit certain Web sites a lot, RSS can help you easily access up-to-the-minute information. These tips will help you get the most out of this technology. (If you're just starting out with RSS, see "RSS 101" for the basics.)

TWEAK SAFARI'S SUMMARIES

Love the convenience of using Apple's Safari as your RSS reader, but hate plowing through the lengthy article summaries it provides? No problem. To change the length of Safari's RSS summaries, drag the Article Length slider that appears below the Search Articles field. If you drag the slider all the way to the left, you'll see only headlines.

KEEP TRACK OF FEEDS

One way to keep track of your RSS feeds is to save them in a folder on Safari's Bookmarks bar. When you're looking at a feed page, click on the Add Bookmark link under Actions and save the feed to the Bookmarks bar. Choose Bookmarks: Show All Bookmarks. Click on the plus sign (+) to the left of the search field at the bottom of the window. Double-click on the folder that appears and name it. Then drag your feeds into it. Choose Bookmarks: Hide All Bookmarks.

Safari totals up all the articles from all the feeds in the folder. Now you'll be able to see at a glance how many new articles are waiting for you. Click on the folder to see a number next to each individual feed's name. If you want to view all the RSS feeds, select Open In Tabs.

TRY LIVE BOOKMARKS

Mozilla Firefox goes one step further than Safari to help you keep up with the latest headlines. Whenever you see an orange icon in Firefox's address bar, the program has detected a Web page with

an RSS feed. Click on this icon, and Firefox gives you the option to add a *live bookmark* to it. Set the Create In pop-up menu to Bookmarks Toolbar Folder, and a bookmark with an orange icon will appear in the bar below the address bar.

Click on this icon to see a list of currently available articles—not just how many there are, but their actual headlines (see "Firefox's Daily News"). New articles have an orange RSS icon, and older articles either show the site's favicon or a default site icon. Select an article to open its Web page. If you'd like to read all the articles, select Open All In Tabs at the bottom of the menu.

PUMP UP FIREFOX'S RSS POWERS

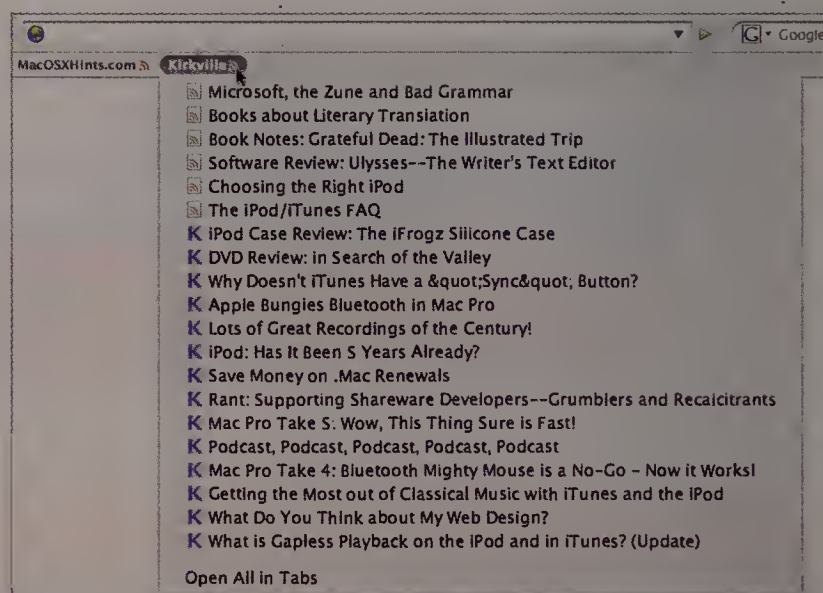
If you dislike switching to another application to check your feeds, but yearn for more features than your browser offers, two Firefox add-ons can help. The Sage Project's free Sage add-on (sage.mozdev.org) integrates with Firefox's live bookmarks and adds feed discovery, as well as RSS search engine powers. The infoRSS Project's free InfoRSS (inforss.mozdev.org) supports a variety of feed types, scrolling feeds, and more.

PUT RSS ON YOUR DASHBOARD

Like to keep your eyes on headlines from a specific site? Keep everything a key press away by downloading Dashboard widgets that keep you up-to-date on single feeds. Go to Apple's Dashboard download page (macworld.com/2363) and search for RSS feed. You'll find dozens of widgets here that let you keep up with your favorite football team, your favorite TV show, or your local newspaper's headlines (see "Dashboard Scores").

SHARE FEEDS

If you've spent days mining the Web for the best, most up-to-date Web sites on a specific subject, share the fruits of your labors with interested friends. Most stand-alone RSS readers let you select the feeds and export them, using the OPML (Outline Processor Markup Language) format. Some RSS readers, such as NewsGator's NetNewsWire, even offer Bonjour sharing on a local network. In the program's Sharing preference



Firefox's Daily News Put a folder full of RSS feeds in Firefox's Bookmarks toolbar, and all you have to do is click to see the latest headlines.

save the date!

january 14-18, 2008
the moscone center
san francisco, ca

Macworld
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macworldexpo.com



Dashboard Scores With a widget that displays sports info, you can spot the latest scores and news for the sport of your choice.

pane, turn on sharing. Tell friends who share the network with you to open their copies of NetNewsWire, select View: Show Sites Drawer, and then click on the Shared tab. From here, they'll be able to access your feeds.

SEE FEEDS ANYWHERE

If you're on the road a lot and want to be able to access your favorite news feeds from any computer, set up your own personal selection of feeds online. Services such as Google Reader (www.google.com/reader/), Rocketinfo (macworld.com/2364), NewsGator Online (www.newsgator.com), and FeedLounge (www.feedlounge.com) offer free or fee-based RSS services on the Web. For example, NetNewsWire lets you sync its feeds to the NewsGator site, so if you use this RSS reader, you are guaranteed to find the same feeds no matter where you are.

GET RSS TO GO

If you don't have time to check out all your feeds before going to work, load them on your iPod as notes, with Kainjow's \$13 Life2Go (www.kainjow.com). This program will copy your favorite RSS feeds—but only the feeds, not the articles they link to—along with a slew of other info, such as stock quotes, weather, notes, and much more. Graham Parks's RSS reader Shrook can also sync your feeds to your iPod, though it allows you to sync only all of them at once; Life2Go lets you choose exactly which feeds you put on your iPod.

RELAX WITH THE NEWS

Can't get enough headlines? Use them as your screen saver, so you can catch up whenever you take a break. In OS X 10.4, open the Desktop & Screen Saver preference pane, click on the Screen Saver tab, and then choose RSS Visual-

izer from the Screen Saver column. Click on Options to pick a feed. (The list shows all the feeds you've saved in Safari.) White 3-D text rotates over an aqueous background, displaying the headlines and summaries of your selected feed. If you want to read more, press the key that's specified below the

[RSS 101]

RSS, or Really Simple Syndication, has revolutionized the way people get information from the Web. Subscribe to an RSS feed, and you no longer need to manually scan pages to spot what's changed on your favorite Web site. Instead, the feed shows you what's new or updated.

Most Web sites use the RSS data format to provide easy access to their stories. You can view feeds using a Web browser that supports them (such as Safari 2.0 or Firefox), or a special RSS reader, which offers additional features for retrieving and displaying news and articles. You can even use some online services to organize your feeds and read them on any computer.

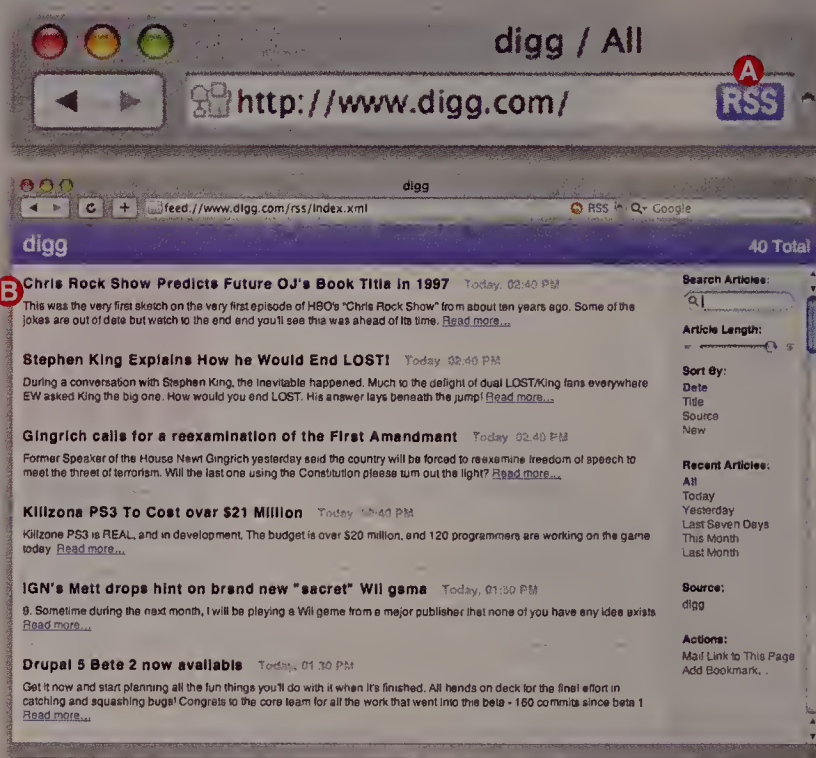
Get Started with Safari You've already got a built-in RSS reader—Safari. If a Web site offers an RSS feed, the browser shows an RSS icon in its address bar (see "RSS in Action"). Click on this icon to see the feed within the browser window. To read an article, click on its headline or the Read More link to jump to its Web page. If you're looking for something in particular, you can search for keywords in all available articles. To return to the normal Web view, just click on the blue RSS icon in the

address bar, and you'll go back to the Web page you were originally viewing.

Use a Dedicated Reader What if you have dozens or even hundreds of RSS feeds you want to monitor? There are plenty of dedicated RSS readers to pick from—for example, NewsGator's free NetNewsWire Lite 2.1 (★★★★½; macworld.com/2361), David Watanabe's \$19 NewsFire 1.4 (★★★★; macworld.com/0419), and Graham Parks's free Shrook 2.5 (★★★★½; macworld.com/0766). (Disclaimer: Mac Publishing, the publisher of *Macworld*, has a business relationship with NewsGator.)

All allow you to subscribe to feeds, organize them, and read them in a two- or three-pane interface, similar to that of Apple's Mail. They update your feeds automatically, and some offer powerful search functions.

If you decide to use an RSS reader, you'll need to tell your system. In Safari, choose Safari: Preferences and click on the RSS tab. From the Default RSS Reader pop-up menu, select the program you want to use. In Firefox, choose Firefox: Preferences and click on Feeds. Choose the Subscribe To The Feed Using option, and select your reader from the list.



RSS in Action The simplest way to see what RSS is all about is to fire up Safari (/Applications) and head to a site with a feed. Safari's address bar will show an RSS icon in white letters on a blue background **A**. Click on it to switch to Safari's RSS display mode and browse through headlines and summaries **B**.

text (for example, "Press the 4 key to read more"). This will open the appropriate Web page in your browser. □

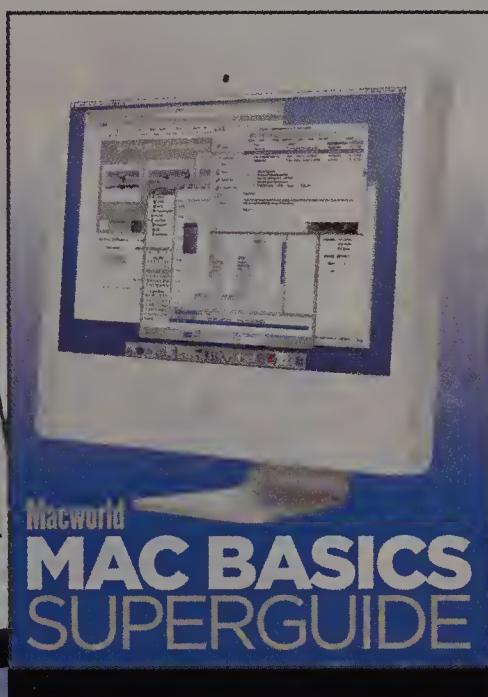
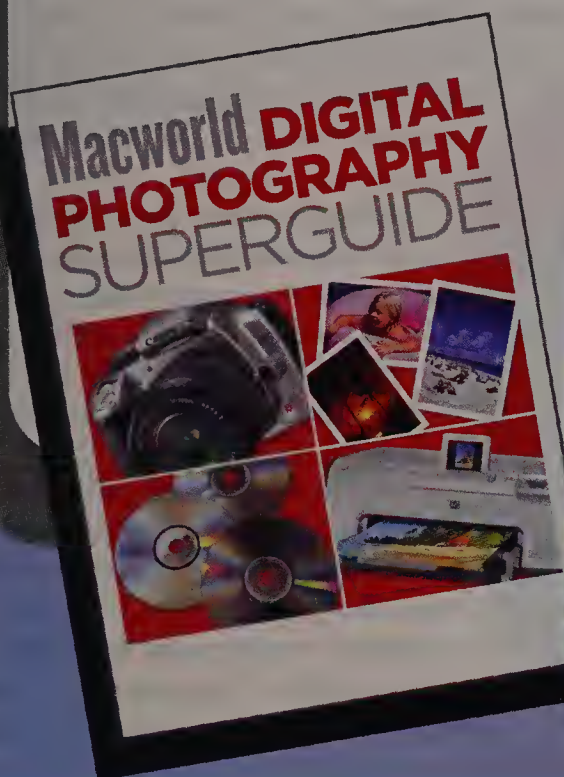
KIRK McELHEARN has authored and coauthored a dozen Mac books. His Web site, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com) has an RSS feed. SARAH MILSTEIN is a coauthor and the editor of *Google: The Missing Manual* (O'Reilly, 2006).

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Easy Mac Backups

If your computer is stolen, damaged, or incapacitated, you can always repair or replace the hardware and software. But what about your data—those photos and videos of your kids, the big proposal that's due on Monday, or the half-finished epic poem you've been writing for years? Without good backups, you could lose your hard work and precious records forever.

The next version of Mac OS X will include the backup software Time Machine (macworld.com/2275), but can you really afford to wait until then? And what if your backup needs go beyond what Apple's program can handle? I'll show you how to protect your data *now*. (For more backup strategies and advice, go to macworld.com/2276.)

Back Up Everything

If your hard drive suddenly dies, the quickest way to get up and running again is with a *bootable backup* (also known as a *duplicate* or *clone*). You store this complete exact copy of your startup volume on another hard drive. If disaster strikes, start up from that drive, and you're back in business. If your entire computer is kaput, move the drive to another Mac.

I recommend bootable backups for almost everyone, but they have some downsides. First, they can be expensive: you'll need a second hard drive that can fit all the data that's on your main

drive. Second, this type of backup can take several hours to run. Because of this, you may choose to update the backup less frequently, which increases the likelihood that you won't keep current with recently updated files. But even with these disadvantages, bootable backups are fabulously useful in the event of major hard-disk troubles.

What You Need If you have a desktop Mac with space for a second hard drive inside, you can add a new internal drive to store bootable backups. However, I recommend an external one. It's easier to move between computers if necessary, and you can store an external drive in a secure off-site location for extra insurance. (See our review of FireWire drives at macworld.com/0923.)

Creating the Backup Because OS X relies on many files that are ordinarily invisible or that have special ownership and permissions settings, you can't create a bootable backup simply by dragging files from one hard disk onto another. You need special software to do the job for you. The best tool for making bootable duplicates is Shirt Pocket's \$28 SuperDuper (★★★★; macworld.com/2277). SuperDuper is fast, accurate, and easy to use. A solid second choice is Mike Bombich's free Carbon Copy Cloner (★★★★½; macworld.com/2277), which also does the job but has a trickier interface. Neither of these tools offers scheduled archives or network backups. If you want more than the basics, you'll have to pony up for a full-featured backup program (see our review of backup programs, page 36).

After Disaster Strikes When the time comes to start your Mac from the backup drive, make sure the drive is connected and powered up. Turn on your Mac and hold down the option key until icons of the available startup drives appear. Select the external drive's icon and then press return.

Once you're running the system from the external drive, use Apple's Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities)



TRY THIS

Rule Your E-mail

When you need to categorize e-mail messages and sort them into folders, Entourage 2004's *rules* are invaluable. Creating a rule is easy (select Tools: Rules and click on New to set one up). But figuring out how multiple rules will interact can prove complex. When you create or modify a rule, test it to make sure it deals with new mail correctly (and works well with your other rules). You can simulate receiving mail by selecting a message and choosing Message: Apply Rule: All Rules. (Entourage also sends the message through the Mailing List Manager and Junk Mail Filter.) It's a perfect way to test what would've happened to that message if you had received it after you made the rule changes.—TOM NEGRINO



What to Back Up

You can never go wrong backing up every file in your user folder, but if you choose to back up only some of your personal files, consider the following:

1 Active Documents Files you work on actively and change frequently—spreadsheets, presentations, or your novel, for instance—need protection most urgently. Many backup programs have a feature that lets you choose files according to their creation or modification date. Use this to select the files you've created or changed during the past month or two, as those are the ones you're most likely to need again soon.

2 E-mail Messages If, like many people, you rely on saved messages to keep track of important information, make sure you back them up. Apple Mail stores all your saved messages in *your user folder/Library/Mail*. For Eudora, the default location is *your user folder/Documents/Eudora Folder*. Entourage stores e-mail, along with contact, calendar, and other information, in *your user folder/Documents/Microsoft User Data/Office 2004 Identities/Main Identity*.

3 Calendar, Address Book, and Keychain Data Apple iCal stores data in *your user folder/Library/Application Support/iCal*. Address Book stores it in *your user folder/Library/Application Support/AddressBook*.

And your keychains—filled with all those important passwords you no longer remember—hang out in *your user folder/Library/Keychains*.

4 Purchased Audio and Video You can always rip music from CDs you own, but you need to back up purchases from the iTunes Store. These files are mixed in with your other iTunes tracks in *your user folder/Music/iTunes Music*. Using your backup program's selectors, pinpoint files that have an extension of *.m4p* (audio) and *.m4v* (video).

5 Your Preferences If you must reinstall lots of applications after a disk crash, one of the most time-consuming tasks you'll face is reentering settings, serial numbers, and other options. You can greatly reduce the work by backing up *your user folder/Library/Preferences*.

6 Browser Settings Safari stores its settings, including your bookmark list and AutoFill information, in *your user folder/Library/Safari*. If you use Mozilla Firefox, the critical folder is *your user folder/Library/Application Support/Firefox*, which also contains any extensions or themes you've added to Firefox.

or a third-party utility to try to repair your main drive. Assuming your internal drive isn't physically damaged, you can duplicate your external drive back onto the internal drive to restore it to a bootable state. (See "Diagnose Hard-Drive Disaster" at macworld.com/2278 for advice on dealing with faltering drives.)

Back Up the Essentials

Regardless of whether you create bootable backups, be sure to make copies of your important and frequently used files. The easiest and safest way to do this is to back up your entire user folder, which should contain most of the files you work with regularly. If this folder is very large, backing up the entire thing can take time and require a lot of storage space. At a minimum, back up your irreplaceable files (see "What to Back Up").

What You Need You can back up your files on almost any medium, from recordable CDs and DVDs to network volumes. However, for ease and speed, I recommend an external hard drive. Hard drives provide the fastest possible backups, they don't require that you manually swap and label optical discs, and they can typically hold several months' worth of archived files.

Creating the Backup It's best to back up all your important files and folders once a day. You can do this manually, but a backup tool will automate the entire process.

Each backup program has its own procedure for setting the source, destination, schedule, and other backup options. As with bootable backups, if a file is accidentally deleted, modified, or damaged, and you don't notice until after the backup runs, you're out of luck. To avoid these problems, make sure that your

backup program creates archives—in other words, that it saves old copies of files when adding new ones. That's standard practice with EMC Insignia's \$96 Retrospect Desktop (www.emcinsignia.com) and Apple's Backup (included with a \$100 .Mac membership; www.mac.com). With Prosoft Engineering's \$59 Data Backup (www.prosofteng.com), use the Versioned Backup feature. With Tri-Edre's \$49 Tri-Backup (www.macworld.com/2305), use the Evolutive Mirror Backup feature.

After Disaster Strikes The problem you're likeliest to encounter is the discovery that you've unintentionally deleted or modified an important file. Most backup software lists all your backups by date, so you can choose to restore specific versions of individual files (or in some cases, all your backed-up files). I recommend restoring the file to a new location. That way, you can compare the two versions of the file and avoid accidentally overwriting a version containing newer data you still need.

If you lose your entire disk's contents, your first step is to repair the disk (or replace the drive), reinstall OS X and your backup application, and then restore the most recent versions of *all* your backed-up files. In this case, since you're restoring everything, put the files back in their original locations.

The Last Word

Without backups, you're computing on borrowed time. But an effective backup strategy need not be time-consuming or costly. The most important thing is to pick a plan and put it into practice today. □

JOE KISSELL is the senior editor of TidBits (www.tidbits.com) and the author of *Real World Mac Maintenance and Backups* (Peachpit Press, 2007).

The Podcast Listener's Guide

Tired of listening to the same stations playing the same music, sawing the same old sports clichés, and repeating the most deadly dull of local news? Thanks to the world of *podcasting*, your daily drive doesn't have to be a drag. Apple's iTunes 7 has improved support for these subscription-based audio and video shows. There's never been a better time to take the podcasting plunge.

playlist

Want more tips on digital music?

For iPod- and iTunes-related expert advice and breaking news, as well as reviews of all the latest gadgets, check out Playlistmag.com.

Smart Searches By clicking on the Podcasts tab in iTunes 7's search results **A**, you can filter out TV shows, movies, and music.

Discovering New Podcasts

When podcasts first took off, finding good ones was a trial by fire. You typically had to search through various Web site aggregators. And if you wanted to get a feel for a show, your only choice was to download it. No more. iTunes 7 makes it easy to find shows you'll enjoy.

Browse Around To browse iTunes' podcast offerings, click on the iTunes Store link in the left column of the iTunes window. Once the Store loads, select the Podcasts link in the upper left corner. Along the left of the page that appears, podcasts are sorted into genres such as Health, News & Politics, Sports & Recreation, and Technology. The main window highlights some of the newest feeds, staff favorites, and a regularly changing mix of featured podcasts. Look to the right and you'll see a list of the top 30 podcasts. Click on the Top Podcasts link to widen your view to the top 100.

Once you find something that looks interesting, click on its title to see a description. User ratings and reviews can help you decide if the show is worth subscribing to. If you're still on the fence, try a sample episode. Pick a title from the Name list at the bottom of the store window, and click on the Get Episode button to download it. You can also double-click on

the episode name to play it without actually downloading the file. If you like what you hear (or see), click on the Subscribe button at the top of the window. iTunes will automatically retrieve new episodes for you.

Search for Specifics Got a specific podcast in mind? Use the store's search feature to find it fast. Let's say you're looking for *Lost* podcasts. Type the word *Lost* into the Search iTunes Store box. When the Search Results page appears, click on the Podcasts link at the top of the window. This weeds out other results—for instance, songs from the soundtrack or episodes of the TV show itself.

Managing Your Podcasts

The latest version of iTunes features several new options for managing subscriptions. Here are some of the most useful.

Access Your Preferences You've always been able to access your podcast preferences by going to iTunes: Preferences and clicking on Podcasts. But now there's a faster way. When you're browsing your subscriptions (select Podcasts in the list to the left of your iTunes window to see them), just click on the Settings button at the bottom of the window to go to your podcast preferences.

Control Your Downloads One of my favorite new management features in iTunes is the dedicated downloads window. Control your downloads by clicking on Downloads in the list to the left (this link shows up only when there are downloads in progress). In the window that appears, you can pause the download by pressing the tiny pause button to the right of the podcast's status bar.

This can be especially useful if you have a slow Internet connection, or if you need to dedicate bandwidth temporarily to some other task. When you're ready to resume downloading, click on the small refresh button.

Making the iPod Connection

Although you can listen to or view podcasts on your Mac, there's a good reason this technology



isn't called *iTunescasting*. Ultimately podcasts are designed for portability.

Sync It Up To select which podcasts transfer to your iPod, first connect the player. Select your iPod in the list to the left of the iTunes window and click on the Podcasts tab. Begin by defining which podcasts you want to sync with your iPod. You can select all or just a few. You can also define how many episodes to transfer. For instance, you can choose to sync all of them, only the most recent episodes (such as the last five or ten), all unplayed episodes, or just the most recent unplayed episodes. For example, to avoid overloading my iPod with older episodes or ones I've already listened to in iTunes, I sync only the three most recent unplayed episodes.

Once you've tweaked the settings, the selected podcasts show up on your iPod after syncing (provided you have configured your iPod to sync automatically). Syncing works very much as it does with a regular playlist. New episodes automatically appear while older ones are tossed in the electronic dustbin. On the player, the Podcasts menu appears under Music.

Organize Your Episodes Want to impose more order on your podcasts? Use a playlist instead. Say you want to listen to *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* before you watch *ABC World News* without having to navigate manually between the two. To play podcasts in a certain order, simply drag the episodes you want to hear to a new playlist (File: New Playlist) and arrange them the way you want.

Set the playlist to sync automatically with your iPod. (Click on the iPod's name in the list to the left of the iTunes window, click on the Music tab, and then select the playlist's name in the Selected Playlist list.) Or, if you have your iPod set up for manual file transfers, you can just drag and drop the playlist's icon onto the iPod's icon in iTunes.

Going beyond iTunes

Once you become a podcast junkie, you may discover that iTunes can't meet all your needs. Newsreaders were the original podcast-management applications. These tools let you subscribe to and read autogenerated feeds from news sites, blogs, and other Web publications. They are especially useful if you subscribe to a lot of podcast feeds and want the freedom to download episodes selectively rather than have iTunes grab every one.

NewsGator's \$30 NetNewsWire 2.1.1 (www.news-gator.com) and Kula's \$18 Endo 1.0 (www.macworld.com/1338;

Tip

If you want to subscribe to a podcast that iTunes doesn't

list, go to Advanced: Subscribe To Podcast and type in the URL of the show's feed. Click on OK, and iTunes will add it to your list of subscriptions.



My 5 Favorite Podcasts



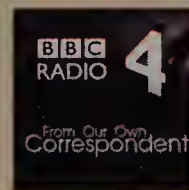
ABC World News Catch up on the news during the bus or train ride home. Anchor Charles Gibson hosts this video-podcast edition of the day's news.



Ask a Ninja This popular video podcast, hosted by a ninja, answers pressing questions we've all pondered, such as, Why is three the magic number?



Channel Frederator Frederator's often ribald cartoons showcase some of the funniest animated work on the Internet in short, easily digestible episodes.



From Our Own Correspondent This BBC program roots out some of the most interesting feature stories from around the world on topics that often don't make the evening news.



This American Life Now appearing weekly in iTunes, this show features all your favorite contributors to the popular public radio program—Sarah Vowell, David Sedaris, John Hodgman, and host Ira Glass.

www.macworld.com/1338) both offer excellent podcast support. (Disclaimer: Mac Publishing, the publisher of *Macworld*, has a business relationship with NewsGator.) They let you choose whether to import podcasts automatically into iTunes and allow you to drop podcasts into specific playlists and change the genre settings.

But if there's one thing that will truly enhance your podcasting experience, it's Odeo (www.odeo.com). This free, Web-based podcast manager lets you find and subscribe to podcasts, and then it delivers new episodes straight to a personal online inbox. And because Odeo is Web-based, you can listen to podcasts from any computer without keeping redundant subscriptions at work and home. You can even import your Odeo subscriptions into iTunes by clicking on the Subscribe To Your Inbox In iTunes link at the bottom of your inbox page.

Odeo also includes great social-networking features, so you can link up with friends and check out their favorite subscriptions—a useful way to find new content. But perhaps its most interesting feature is the browser-based recording studio (macworld.com/2287), which lets you record and publish your own podcasts, taking you from mere listener to broadcaster. □

MATHEW HONAN writes about technology for the *National Journal*, *Technology Daily* and *Wired*. Go check out his Mac-oriented Weblog at mac.honan.net.

Make Massive Prints

Looking for an inexpensive way to add interest to a blank wall? Want to show off your digital photos in a way that will really get noticed? The next time you make a print of your favorite photo, don't settle for a measly 8 by 10 inches. Supersize it. With a little work, you can turn a favorite snapshot into a stunning 16-by-20-inch or larger print—all for less than the cost of a generic print at the poster store.

Know Your Limits

Your first decision when making a large print is to determine how big you can go before your image loses too much detail. This primarily depends on the number of pixels your camera captures and how closely you pack those pixels together when printing.

Although I usually recommend printing photos at a resolution of 240 pixels per inch (ppi), poster-size prints are typically viewed from farther away. So you can get by with a lower resolution—perhaps even as low as 150 ppi for very large prints. For example, to print a 16-by-20-inch photo at a resolution of 240 ppi (which translates to 3,840 pixels tall by 4,800 pixels wide), you'd need an 18.4-megapixel image. But to print the same image at 180 ppi (or 2,880 pixels by 3,600 pixels), you'd need just 10.3 megapixels. While that's still high, it's within the range of what many of the latest consumer cameras are capable of.

But what if you don't have a 10-megapixel camera? In that case, you'll need to resize your image, using a process called *resampling*. When you resample an image to make it bigger, the image editor uses an

Tip **Take Baby Steps** If you'll be enlarging your image significantly—by 150 percent or more—don't make the whole leap at once. You'll preserve more detail and get better results by resampling it in 10-percent increments.

interpolation algorithm to calculate new pixel data—essentially filling in the blanks around existing pixels so you can reach your intended output size.

Many image editors, including Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements and Apple's Aperture, will resample images for you. (Unfortunately, you can't use iPhoto for this type of thing; the program can make photos *smaller* but not larger. For a work-around to this problem, see "Resample from the Finder.") Several other programs, such as Alien Skin Software's Blow Up (\$200; www.alienskin.com) and onOne Software's Genuine Fractals (\$160; www.ononesoftware.com), specialize in this type of work. However, unless you enlarge a lot of your photos to billboard-size prints, you probably don't need to spend the extra money on these programs.

Resampling in Photoshop or Elements

If you use Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, you can take advantage of the program's Image Size dialog box to resize and resample your images. To access it in Photoshop, select Image: Image Size. In Elements, select Image: Resize: Image Size.

Test Your Resolution If you can avoid resampling, you should—even if it means printing at a slightly lower resolution. To see just how big you can go without resampling, deselect the Resample Image option and then enter your desired resolution in the Resolution field. Start with 240 ppi. When you enter a resolution, the Document Size pane's Width and Height measurements will change to reflect the new print size.

If the resulting print size is *larger* than you need, you're all set. Simply enter the correct width and height—you'll end up with a higher resolution than you need, but your image will print fine.



In most cases, though, the resulting print size will be *smaller* than you want. When this happens, try lowering the resolution—say, to 200 or 180 ppi. If you're still far from your target print size, you'll need to resample the picture.

Resample If Necessary While still in the Image Size dialog box, enter a resolution, select the Resample Image option, and then enter the desired output size in the Width or Height field (see "Bigger Is Better"). You'll notice the image's pixel dimensions increase as Photoshop calculates new pixels to fill in the missing data. Click on the Resample pull-down menu and select the algorithm you'd like to use. I find that Bicubic Smoother offers the best results for this type of work. When you're done, click on OK.

Resampling in Aperture

If you're using Aperture, you'll set your image size when you export the photo. Unfortunately, you'll have to calculate the new pixel dimensions yourself—multiply your desired print size (in inches) by your desired resolution.

Be conservative when choosing a resolution. Too much resampling can introduce ugly artifacts into your image. It's often better to print at 180 ppi than to resample all the way up to 240 ppi.

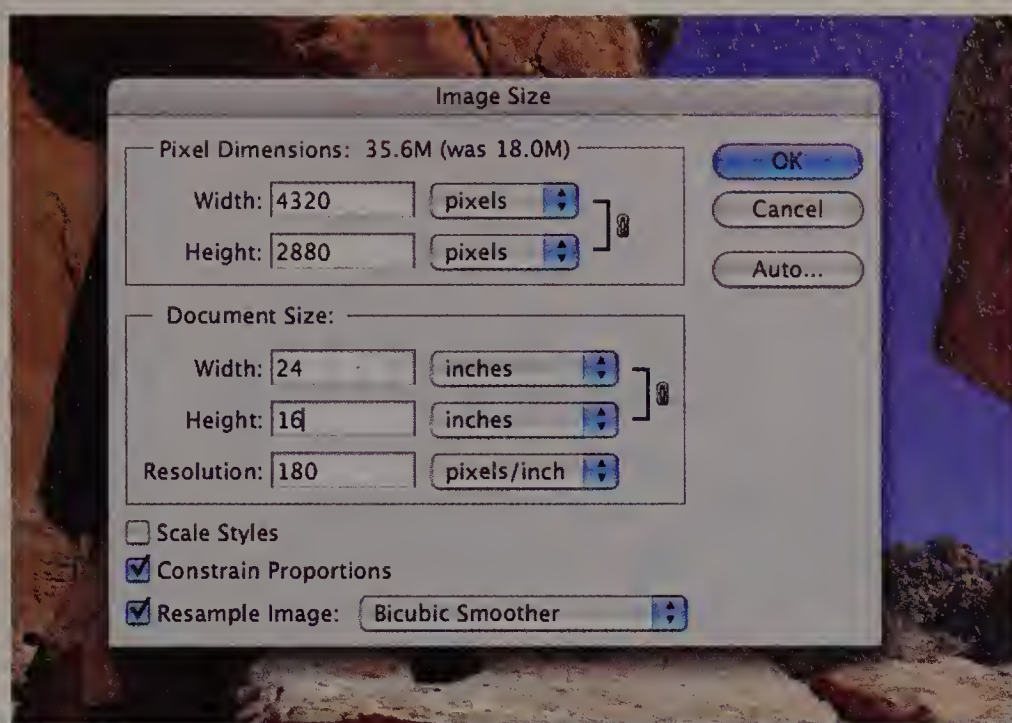
With a photo selected in Aperture, choose File: Export: Export Version. Choose Edit from the Export Preset pop-up menu. In the Export Presets dialog box, choose Fit Within Pixels from the Size To menu and enter your desired pixel dimensions and resolution. Click on OK, specify where you want the image saved, and then click on the Export Version button.

Resample from the Finder

Unlike Aperture, iPhoto can make an image smaller but not bigger. To work around this problem, I've created a free program called Image Resizer, which you can download at macworld.com/2374.

To use the Image Resizer program, first drag a copy of the image (or images) you want to resize into a new folder on your desktop (hold down the option key while dragging to create a duplicate of the image, so you don't accidentally move your original). Then simply drag the duplicate image—or the entire folder—onto the Image Resizer icon.

As with Aperture, you'll need to calculate the image's final pixel dimensions yourself. Multiply the desired measurement of the image's longest side by the desired resolution, and enter this number in the dialog box that appears. (To create a 16-by-20-inch image at 180 ppi, for example, you'd enter 3600.) Image Resizer will resize the image (or images) and save over the file.



Printing Your Photo

You have several options for printing your poster.

Print Shops Your local FedEx Kinko's can print your image on a large-format ink-jet printer for around \$10 per square foot—a 24-by-16-inch image will cost a little over \$30. Although you can submit images via the Kinko's Web site (macworld.com/2373), I got much better results by visiting a local branch. (Your results will depend on the skills of the employee operating the machine.) You can give Kinko's the file on a CD or a flash drive. By the way, you don't have to submit your images at the desired print size, but you'll have more control over the results if you resize it yourself.

Online Photo Services Many online photo services—such as Snapfish (www.snapfish.com) or Shutterfly (www.shutterfly.com)—offer poster-size prints, as well as standard sizes. However, after testing several online services, I was most impressed with Large Format Posters (www.largeformatposters.com), which specializes in large output. The site provides a wide range of sizes (up to 59 by 100 inches in many cases) and a vast selection of paper types—all at very reasonable rates. It even offers discounts on bulk orders. Its prices are slightly higher than those of some other online photo sites (\$29 for a 20-by-30-inch poster), but in my tests, it did a better job. And it's less expensive than Kinko's.

Do It Yourself If you plan to make a lot of poster prints and are picky about image quality, you may want to consider purchasing your own large-format printer. Printer prices have dropped considerably over the last few years. For example, you can pick up the HP DesignJet 130 (www.hp.com), which produces excellent 24-inch-wide prints, for just \$1,300. Printing images yourself is less expensive (once you've paid for the printer) and faster, and it gives you much more control over your images' colors—especially if you take the time to profile your system. □

Bigger Is Better

With the Resample Image option turned on in Photoshop's Image Size dialog box, enter the desired width or height and the desired resolution of your poster image. As you type, the pixel dimensions will change to reflect your image's new size.

BEN LONG (www.completedigitalphotography.com) is the author of *Apple Pro Training Series: Aperture 1.5* (Peachpit Press, 2006).

Customize Your DVDs

Apple's iDVD software (included with the \$79 iLife '06 suite) makes it almost ridiculously easy to turn home movies and other videos into visually stunning DVDs. In fact, the program does almost all the work for you. But there are also plenty of less-obvious ways to customize your DVDs, so you can create something a little more distinctive or add useful features.

Create Video Chapters

Unlike a videotape, a DVD is a random-access medium: your DVD player can access any part of the disc almost instantly, with no rewinding or fast-forwarding. To take advantage of this instant access, professional DVD creators break movies into *chapters*—markers that viewers can use to jump quickly to scenes, no matter when they happen in the video. And with the help of iMovie and iDVD, you can do the same thing for your DVDs.

Any movie with more than one scene is a candidate for chapters. In a vacation movie, you might create a separate chapter for each day or each major destination. In a wedding movie, create chapters for each of the big day's milestones: the bridal preparations, the ceremony, the reception, the cake cutting, and so on.

Making Chapters iDVD can create a menu of your movie's chapters, but you must tell it where each chapter begins. To do that, create *chapter markers* in iMovie HD before you import the movie into iDVD.

Open your video in iMovie HD and switch to the Timeline Viewer. Position the playhead at the point where you want the next chapter to begin and then select Markers: Add Chapter Marker. A yellow diamond will appear in the timeline.

You can also create chapters while watching the movie: simply press ⌘-shift-M whenever playback reaches a point where you'd like a marker.

Naming Chapters iMovie names each chapter marker after the clip it appears in. That means you'll end up with a lot of meaningless chapter names, such as Clip 02. To give viewers a better sense of what they'll find at that marker, give it a more useful name, such as Arrival in Paris or Cutting the Cake. Later, when you create your disc, iDVD will use these marker names to create menu buttons for each chapter.

To rename your chapter markers, switch to the Chapters pane in iMovie and then double-click on a chapter's name to select it (see "From Markers to Menu"). Since the text will also be used as a menu button, limit the new name to just a few words.

Building Your DVD Menu To add your chaptered movie to an iDVD project, simply drag the movie from iDVD's Media Browser into the menu area.

When you do this, iDVD creates two buttons for the movie: Play Movie and Scene Selection. The first lets someone viewing your DVD play the movie from the beginning. The Scene Selection button leads to a submenu page that contains a button for each chapter in your movie.

Each of iDVD 6's menu themes provides multiple submenu designs, including one for a chapter submenu. (To see a theme's submenu designs, make sure you have 6.0 selected from the Theme pane's pull-down menu, and then click on the gray arrow to the left of the theme's name.) If you use one of these themes for your disc, the program automatically applies that theme's design to your chapter submenu. This adds visual consistency to your DVD design.

Many chapter submenu designs include a video still for each chapter (taken from the frame where you placed the chapter marker). To choose a different still for the chapter, click on

From Markers to Menu Use iMovie HD's Chapters pane to name your movie's chapter markers. When you import the movie into iDVD, the names will appear in the chapter submenu.



the image and move the playhead that appears to a new position. If you have more chapters than will fit on one submenu page, click on the right arrow to move to the next page.

Customize Your Menus

iDVD comes with a stock of slick and visually impressive menu designs. But there are some easy ways to add a little personal flair to your DVDs:

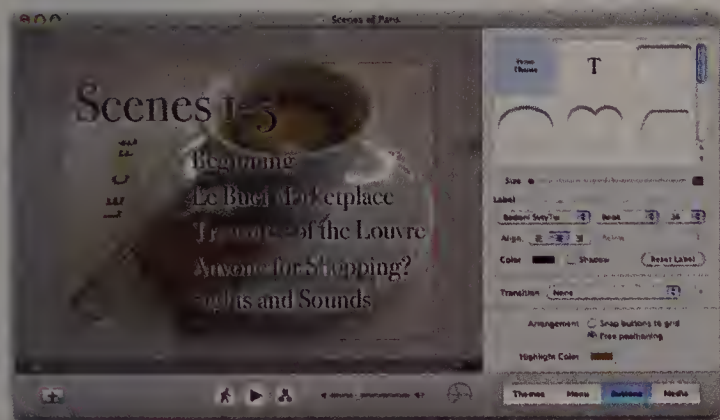
Change the Background You can use your own photo or movie as the background of a menu screen. To replace a background, simply drag a photo or movie from the Media Browser into the menu area. If the menu includes drop zones (the animated areas that display photos or movies), you can remove those as well, by holding down the \mathbb{A} key while dragging your photo onto the background. In the pop-up menu that appears, choose Replace Background And Drop Zones.

Change the Buttons As any clothes lover will tell you, an easy way to perk up a shirt is to replace its buttons. To perform the same makeover magic on your DVD, open the Buttons pane. From here, you can select a new button shape, such as a stamp, a frame, or a filmstrip; change the button's size; or adjust the font and color of the button's label.

You can also rearrange the buttons; simply select Free Positioning from the Arrangement section, and then drag the button wherever you wish. To avoid having part of a button get cut off when your menu is displayed on a TV screen, choose View: Show TV Safe Area, and then make sure all your buttons fit within the dark rectangle that appears.

To apply the same settings quickly to other buttons, select the customized button and choose Edit: Copy Style. Then select a different button and choose Edit: Paste Style.

Add Text You can add text to a DVD menu by selecting Project: Add Text, and then typing the text in the box that appears. For example, you might create a tagline, such as "Sights and Sounds of Paris," to go with your vacation movie. For long passages of text, you'll need to press the return key at the end of



Do It Your Way You can customize almost every aspect of your DVD menus. This scene-selection menu, generated from chapter markers created in iMovie HD, sports a background photo from iPhoto and customized menu buttons.

DVD Glamour

To really give your slide-show DVD a professional touch, print your own disc label.

Printable DVDs Almost all of Epson's photo printers can print directly onto DVDs. To use the feature, you have to buy special discs with a printable surface; however, by printing directly onto the disc, you eliminate the risk of your label jamming a DVD player—a danger posed by paper labels. Epson includes software for designing the disc's label, or you can use third-party software such as SmileOnMyMac's Disc-Label (\$30; www.smileonmymac.com).

Press-on Labels Don't have an Epson printer? Check out HP's CD/DVD Tattoos (pack of 15 labels, \$10; www.hp.com). You print a reversed image of your DVD's design on the underside of one of these thin pieces of plastic, and then peel off the adhesive edges and press the plastic label on the top of your disc (shown here). The tattoos are transparent, so you'll need to use a disc with a white or silver surface. The resulting images are nicely saturated and have a glossy finish.—KELLY TURNER



each line—iDVD won't wrap text automatically. Later, if you find a typo, double-click on the text box and use your arrow keys to navigate the text passage.

To create an entire screen of text—for example, to offer some background on the places you visited—choose Project: Add Submenu. Double-click on the new submenu button to access the screen, and then add your text. Use the Menu pane to customize the text's formatting.

Reuse Your Work If you've customized the DVD's main menu and want to apply its design to submenus in the same project, choose Advanced: Apply Theme To Submenus. Conversely, if you've customized a submenu and you want to apply its design to the main menu, choose Advanced: Apply Theme To Project.

You can also save your customized design to use in other iDVD projects. Choose File: Save Theme As Favorite, and then give your new theme a name. The next time you start a project, you'll find your design under Favorites in the Themes pane's pull-down menu.

Add Bonus Material

Your DVD can hold much more than just movies. If you visited an interesting tourist spot, for example, you could include PDFs of Web pages describing your destination. If you're making a training DVD, you might want to put in a copy of the employee handbook or other relevant items.

To include these types of files, select Advanced: Show DVD-ROM Contents and then drag files from your hard drive into the DVD-ROM Contents window. When viewers insert the DVD into a computer, they'll find the documents under the disc's DVD-ROM Contents menu. □

Senior Contributor JIM HEID is the author of *The Macintosh iLife '06* (Peachpit Press, 2006). He offers iLife-related advice at www.macilife.com.

Upgrade Your Laptop

Your laptop is a couple of years old, and you're not particularly happy with its performance anymore—but you aren't ready to spring for a new one. What to do? You've probably considered upgrading your portable Mac. But what, exactly, should you upgrade?

To start, you should focus on the Big Two of laptop upgrades: the memory and the hard drive. Sure, you can upgrade other components, particularly the optical drive and, in some cases, the CPU. But RAM and hard-drive upgrades can both dramatically increase your laptop's usability, and both are doable for the average Mac owner.

Thanks for More Memory

Adding RAM is the fastest, easiest upgrade you can do, and it will give you the most bang for your buck. You probably know the signs of a RAM-deprived Mac: Your machine works great while you're browsing the Web and reading e-mail, but when you open a program like Adobe Photoshop, you see the spinning beach ball.

When the operating system can't fit the application code and your data in physical memory, it swaps the excess data to the hard drive. Because disks are slower than RAM, that swapping slows performance. Memory upgrades can be particularly helpful if you run high-end applications—such as Photoshop—that work with huge data files. For example, *Macworld* tested the effects of RAM upgrades on a Mac mini. In Photoshop, tasks that took seven minutes to perform with 256MB of RAM took about two minutes when that RAM was upgraded to 512MB—that's a pretty dramatic improvement.

If you think you need more laptop RAM, you can get some at a relatively inexpensive price: a 512MB module can be had for around \$70; 256MB, for as little as \$40 (this varies by model, of course).

Installation is simple (particularly with aluminum PowerBooks and the MacBook models): Just shut the computer off, remove a few Phillips screws, drop the new RAM in, and replace the screws. When you turn the Mac on, it should immediately recognize the new memory.

Exact installation procedures vary by model. (With MacBooks, for example, Apple recommends that you install RAM in matched pairs for best performance.) For specifics, check out www.apple.com/support/diy. Usually, the only trick is making sure the RAM you buy is compatible with your particular Mac. (See macworld.com/2420 for our chart summarizing the types of RAM that will work in your laptop.)

Speed and Storage

While more RAM can easily increase a laptop's performance, a new hard drive may also give you a speed boost, while also giving you more storage.

Let's say your iBook came with a 20GB drive rated at 4,200 rpm. For about \$130, you can replace it with a 60GB, 7,200-rpm drive. Throughput on the stock 4,200-rpm drives generally tops out at 20 MBps, but the 5,400-rpm drives max out around 30 MBps, and the 7,200-rpm drives top out at about 40 MBps.

For people who value space over speed, the largest laptop hard drive currently available is a SATA 4,200-rpm 200GB model from Toshiba (www.toshiba.com). Fujitsu has also announced production of a SATA 200GB drive, but it is too thick to fit into the MacBook line.

Faster drives have a reputation for being noisy and causing poor battery life. True, 7,200-rpm drives pull about 25 percent more juice than comparable 5,400-rpm drives and make a bit more noise, but you're not likely to notice either in real-world use. What you will notice is the price: Right now, 7,200-rpm drives cost about 50 percent more than 5,400-rpm drives of the same capacity.



UPGRADE OPTIONS

Which upgrades make the most sense for you? Here are the main upgrade options for Mac laptops released over the past several years. Have an older model? It's time to consider getting a new one.

		RAM				HARD DRIVE		
Model	Processor	Standard Configuration (in MB)	Maximum (in MB)	Memory Type	Cost Range ^A	Standard Configuration (in GB)	Maximum (in GB)	Cost Range
POWERBOOK								
12-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	867MHz–1GHz	256	1,152–1,280	PC2100 or PC2700	\$40–\$150	40–60	160	\$100–\$300
12-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	1.33GHz–1.5GHz	256–512	1,152–1,280	PC2700	\$40–\$150	60–100	160	\$100–\$300
15-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	1GHz–1.67GHz ^B	256–512	2,048	PC2700	\$40–\$300	40–100	160	\$100–\$300
15-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	1.67GHz ^C	512	2,048	PC2-4200	\$60–\$260	60–100	160	\$100–\$300
17-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	1GHz–1.67GHz ^D	512	2,048	PC2700	\$40–\$300	60–100	160	\$100–\$300
17-inch PowerBook G4 (aluminum)	1.67GHz ^E	512	2,048	PC2-4200	\$60–\$260	60–120	160	\$100–\$300
iBOOK								
12-inch iBook G3	500MHz–900MHz	64–256	576–640	PC100 or PC133	\$40–\$110	10–40	160	\$60–\$300
14-inch iBook G3	600MHz–900MHz	256	640	PC100 or PC133	\$40–\$110	20–40	160	\$60–\$300
12-inch iBook G4	800MHz–1.2GHz	256–512	1,152–1,280	PC2100 or PC2700	\$40–\$150	30	160	\$100–\$300
12-inch iBook G4	1.33GHz	512	1,536	PC2700	\$40–\$150	40	160	\$100–\$300
14-inch iBook G4	933MHz–1.33GHz	256	1,152–1,280	PC2100 or PC2700	\$40–\$150	30–60	160	\$100–\$300
14-inch iBook G4	1.42GHz	512	1,536	PC2700	\$40–\$150	60	160	\$100–\$300
MACBOOK/MACBOOK PRO								
13-inch MacBook	1.83GHz–2GHz	512	2,048	PC2-5300 DDR-2	\$105–\$210	60–80	200	\$130–\$300
15-inch MacBook Pro	1.83GHz–2.16GHz	512–1,024	2,048	PC2-5300 DDR-2	\$105–\$210	80–120	200	\$170–\$300
17-inch MacBook Pro	2.16GHz	1,024	2,048	PC2-5300 DDR-2	\$105–\$210	100–120	200	\$170–\$300
15-inch MacBook Pro/Core 2 Duo	2.16GHz–2.33GHz	1,024–2,048	3,072	PC2-5300 DDR-2	\$105–\$600	120	200	\$200–\$300
17-inch MacBook Pro/Core 2 Duo	2.33GHz	2,048	3,072	PC2-5300 DDR-2	\$105–\$600	160	200	\$300

^AFor 256MB–2GB. ^B1.67GHz native resolution = 1,280 × 854; check the Displays preference pane. ^CNative resolution = 1,440 × 960. ^D1.67GHz native resolution = 1,440 × 900. ^ENative resolution = 1,680 × 1,050.

^AFor 256MB–2GB. ^B1.67GHz native resolution = 1,280 × 854; check the Displays preference pane. ^CNative resolution = 1,440 × 960. ^D1.67GHz native resolution = 1,440 × 900. ^ENative resolution = 1,680 × 1,050.

Another consideration is physical size. Until the MacBook came along, all Apple laptops used 2.5-inch ATA drives. (That measurement refers to the drive's width; you'll also see references to height, such as 9.5mm drives.) Although some older iBooks and PowerBooks can accommodate taller drives, 9.5mm is the standard and works in everything. Drives in the new MacBooks and MacBook Pros are the same physical size as those used in older Mac laptops, but they use the faster SATA connection; that standard isn't interoperable with the older ATA connectors, so you can't put a SATA drive in an older Mac.

Hard-drive installation varies widely in difficulty. With the new MacBooks, it's insanely easy: just remove the battery and three screws, swap the drives, and replace the screws, and then you're done. (See the video at macworld.com/1436.) Older iBooks are significantly more challenging, 12- and 15-inch PowerBooks slightly less so, and 17-inch PowerBooks and MacBook Pros are even easier (though still not as easy as MacBooks). Because of that diversity, it's impossible to give even general instructions here. Apple's manuals and Web site are both silent on the topic, so you'll just have to search the Web.

Tricks of the Trade

Before you start any upgrade, make sure you have the right tools: Phillips 0, Phillips 00, Torx T6, and Torx T8 screwdrivers are most commonly required.

Some upgraders worry that messing with their machines will void their warranties. In some cases, it may. Apple's warranty states: "This warranty does not apply . . . to damage caused by service (including upgrades and expansions) performed by anyone who is not a representative of Apple or an Apple Authorized Service Provider." This means that your warranty will still be valid if you install a new hard drive yourself—as long as you don't damage anything. In fact, in an effort to control costs, Apple has increasingly been asking Mac owners to perform warranty fixes—the company ships you the replacement part, and you have to perform the repair yourself. If you do damage something, the warranty won't cover that damage; however, you should still be eligible for coverage for other, unrelated issues.

Of course, if you don't want to worry about warranty issues, you can always buy your upgrades online, and then take them to a local Apple technician, who can install them for you. □

KYLE WIENS is the CEO of iFixit, a laptop and iPod parts retailer, and a coauthor of the DIY repair Fixit Guide series (www.ifixit.com/guide).

3 Great Tricks for Geeks

Geeks don't conform to the status quo—and neither do their Macs. But even the best of us can get stuck in a word-processing and Web-browsing rut. If your New Year's resolutions included breaking out of the ordinary, we're here to help. Read on as three of *Macworld's* veteran geeks share sneaky secrets for using a Mac in unconventional ways.

Listen to E-mail on Your iPod

Just look at you—dressed in black from head to toe, spinning and flailing in front of a neon background! But honestly, is that *really* why you bought an iPod? To listen to *music*? Instead, how about getting your iPod to read your e-mail to you during your morning commute? With Mail and Automator (both in /Applications), it's a mere trifle.

1. Create a new Automator workflow and type Mail into the Search box to reveal all Mail-oriented actions.

2. Drag the Find Mail Items action from the Action pane into your workflow. This action collects messages that match the terms you specify. For instance, to find all unread e-mails from your soulless overlord (uh, boss), select Messages from the Find pop-up menu, and then choose Sender Contains *your boss's e-mail address*. Click on the plus-sign (+) button and set the second search term to Read Status Is False.

3. Drag the Combine Mail Messages action into your workflow. This action mashes all e-mails found in the previous step into one blob of text.

4. Using Automator's Search box, locate the Text To Audio File action, which converts written words to an audio file of spoken text. Drag it beneath the

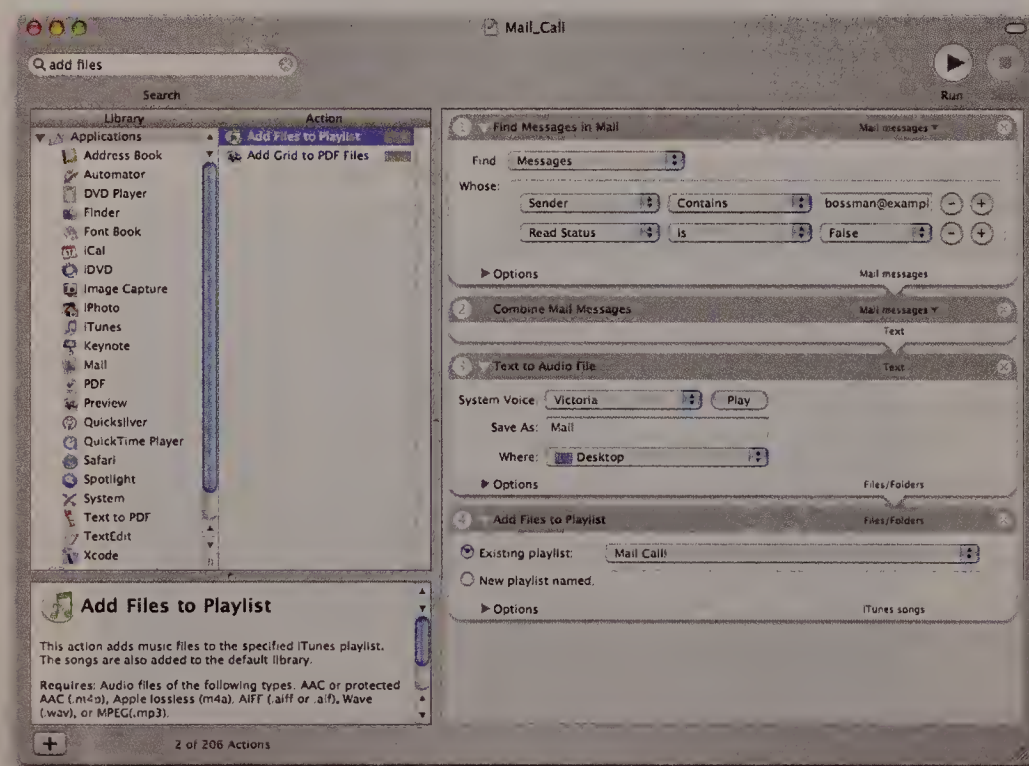
last action in your workflow. From the System Voice pop-up menu, choose one of Tiger's built-in synthetic voices. Enter a name for the audio file, as well as where you want to save it.

5. Now you want your audio file of spoken e-mails to land on your iPod. Create a playlist in iTunes (File: New Playlist) and give it a name (for instance, Mail Call!). Return to Automator, locate the Add Files To Playlist action for iTunes, and add it to the end of the workflow. Select the name of your new e-mail playlist from the Existing Playlist pop-up menu. (Automator does have an Add Songs To iPod action, but your mail will be easier to find if you use my technique instead.)

There you go—it's done and dusted. Click on the Run button and behold the majesty of Automator. (But get comfy: if you're buried in communiqués, it could take a while.) The audio file should appear in the iTunes playlist you created, ready to be transported to your iPod during your next sync.

There are a number of ways to trick out this workflow further. For instance, by saving it as a plug-in (File: Save As Plug-in) and selecting iCal Alarm, you can make your workflow show up in your calendar. Using the details pane in iCal, set the time you want the workflow to run—say, every morning before you leave the house—as well as how often you want it to repeat. Add an Update iPod action to the very end of your workflow, and your audio e-mail file will be ready to go when you are.—ANDY IHNATKO

Mail Reader This simple Automator workflow turns a group of e-mail messages into a spoken audio file.



Put Your Folders to Work

Folder actions are a useful way to weasel out of repetitive tasks. For instance, make a folder action that can automatically convert and rename files whenever you drag them to a certain folder or an action that appends project-based Spotlight comments. With Tiger's user-friendly Automator, you can easily turn any workflow into a folder action. Here's how:

1. In Automator, create the workflow you want to use as a folder action. Once you're finished, go to File: Save As Plug-in and give your workflow a name.

2. In the same dialog box, choose Folder Actions from the Plug-in For pop-up menu. A pop-up menu called Attached To Folder will appear. From that

menu, select the folder you want to attach the action to. If the folder isn't listed, select Other to locate it.

3. If you see an Enable Folder Actions option, select it. If you don't, no worries—this means that folder actions have already been enabled. Click on Save. From now on, OS X will trigger your action whenever you add items to that folder.

But cooler still is what's going on behind the scenes. When you save a workflow as a folder action plug-in, Automator actually creates *two* items. First, it saves the workflow as an application (rather than a workflow) and places it in *your user folder/Library/Workflows/Applications/Folder Actions*. At the same time, it creates an AppleScript that it stashes in *your user folder/Library/Scripts/Folder Actions*. When prompted, the system triggers the AppleScript as a folder action, and the script in turn launches the Automator workflow it's tied to.

Once you've saved the workflow as a plug-in, attaching it to another folder is a cinch. Control-click on any folder and select Configure Folder Actions from the contextual menu. In the Folder Actions Setup window, click on the plus-sign button to add the folder you want to attach the action to; then choose from the list of available scripts.—TED LANDAU

Create a Spycam

Curious to see who's using your computer when you're away from your desk? Set up a spycam! All you need is a Web cam; Econ Technologies' \$30 ImageCaster (www.econtechnologies.com) for broadcasting footage to a Web site; and Humongous Elephants and Tigers' free Dockless (macworld.com/2375), which helps keep your snooping on the down low.

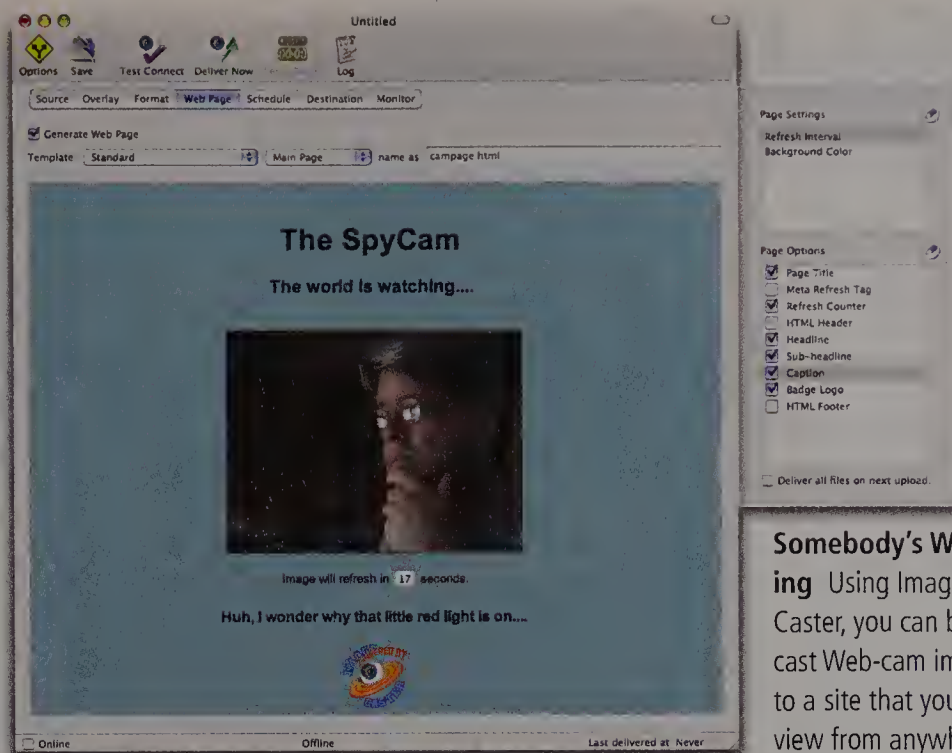
Set Up the Camera You can use your Mac's built-in camera, Apple's \$149 external iSight (📷; macworld.com/2376), or any other compatible Web cam—even a camcorder plugged into your Mac's FireWire port. (A light on the iSight comes on when recording, so if you need to be covert, this camera may not be the best choice.) If you're using a camcorder, make sure it's turned on. If you're using an adjustable Web cam, point it at the space you'd like to monitor.

Stream Footage ImageCaster takes images captured by your camera and broadcasts them to a Web site that you can access from any browser. Here's how to use a .Mac account to set it up.

1. Open your .Mac preference pane, click on the iDisk tab, and turn iDisk Syncing off. This ensures that pictures are updated on the Web site.

2. Mount your iDisk by clicking in the Finder and selecting Go: iDisk: My iDisk. Inside your iDisk's Sites folder, create a new folder and name it Spycam.

3. Launch ImageCaster and click on the Destination tab. From the Deliver To pop-up menu, choose Local File and drag the Spycam folder you created into the Path field.



Somebody's Watching Using ImageCaster, you can broadcast Web-cam images to a site that you can view from anywhere.

4. Go to ImageCaster's Source tab. Select Video Digitizer from the Import From pop-up menu. From the Buffer pop-up menu, select NTSC Half Size.

5. Click on the Web Page tab and enable the Generate Web Page option. This pane also allows you to configure the look of the Web page that will be hosting your spycam images. Choose a template (for instance, wood or chalkboard) and edit the various bits of text, such as the headlines and caption. To make text changes, double-click on the element you want to edit (in the slide-out drawer under Page Options) and enter your new text.

6. Visit the Schedule tab to choose when (days and times) the spycam will operate, as well as how frequently the image will refresh. Once per minute should be adequate.

7. At the bottom of the ImageCaster window, enable the Online option. Finally, click on the Deliver Now button in the toolbar to start uploading. If you're using the standard template, the URL for your Web cam should look like this: <http://homepage.mac.com/your-member-name/SpyCam/campage.html>.

Hide the Evidence Ah, but suppose the person sitting at your Mac notices ImageCaster running and shuts it down? Enter Dockless, a utility that keeps running applications from appearing in the Dock, in the Application Switcher, and in the Force Quit menu. (They still appear in the Activity Monitor.)

Quit ImageCaster and launch Dockless. In the Applications window, deselect ImageCaster, and then click on Relaunch. ImageCaster reappears, without its menus at the top of the screen. Don't worry—it's one of the side effects of Dockless. Luckily, all important commands are still available from the application's main window. Finally, press ⌘-H to make the ImageCaster window vanish.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Senior Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2006). Longtime *Macworld* contributor ANDY IHNATKO is the technology columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the author of *iPod Fully Loaded* (Wiley, 2006). Senior Contributor TED LANDAU is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com).

Mac OS X Hints

The Insiders' Tips You Won't Get from Apple

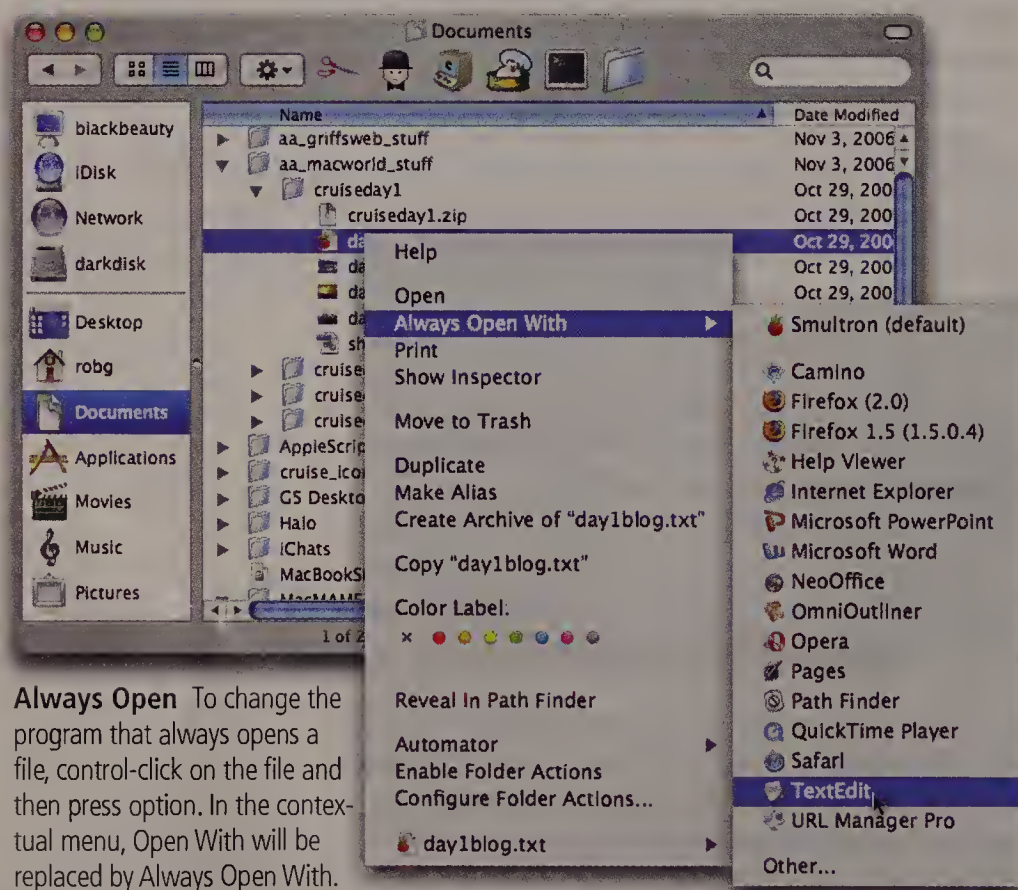
Cancel the Shut Down Command

It's happened to us all: you tell your machine to shut down, and then you remember that there's one last thing you need to do—send an e-mail message, check the weather forecast, or pay a bill online, say. Once the shutdown process has started, you may think you're out of luck. There's no obvious way to cancel. But you can do one of two things to stop it. Either should work, assuming that you have enough applications open to slow the shutdown process.

First, try launching a program from the Dock—preferably a large one, such as Adobe Photoshop CS, that takes a bit of time to open. Launching an application cancels the shutdown. You can also stop it by opening a Save dialog box in any application. When you realize that you want to cancel your shutdown, use ⌘ -tab to switch to an application that's still running, and then try pressing ⌘ -shift-S to invoke the File: Save As command. (This shortcut works in some, but not all, apps.) The shutdown process will stop as soon as it reaches the program with the open Save As dialog box.

Change Which Application Opens a File

Do you have a particular .doc file that you *always* want to open in Apple's Pages instead of Microsoft Word,



Always Open To change the program that always opens a file, control-click on the file and then press option. In the contextual menu, Open With will be replaced by Always Open With.



WHAT'S ONLINE

> Banish the Caps from iTunes 7

Dislike the distracting all-caps names of items in the iTunes 7 Sources list? Change them.

macworld.com/2347

> Embed Links in PDFs Created from Word

Embed active links in PDFs you create from Microsoft Word documents, with a little help from Apple's Pages 2.

macworld.com/2348

> Pump Up Mail's Alert Volume

Tired of missing Mail's alerts because they're just too quiet? Learn how to crank them up.

macworld.com/2365

or a PDF file that you want to edit in Adobe's Acrobat Pro rather than in Apple's less-powerful Preview? Sometimes the default application just won't do. Unfortunately, it's tiresome to use the Finder's Get Info window to control which application always opens a certain type of file. You must select the file, press ⌘ -I, click on the triangle next to the Open With section, and then click on the pop-up menu to choose the desired application. Finally, you have to close the Get Info window. Ugh.

You could, of course, use the contextual menu in the Finder to open the document one time—control-click on the document and choose Open With from the pop-up menu. However, you'll have to take the same steps every time you want to open the document—it's not a lasting solution.

This problem has an easy answer—a quick way to change the Always Open With setting for a given file. Control-click on the file, but don't select Open With from the contextual menu just yet. Instead, press and hold the option key. The Open With menu item changes to Always Open With (see "Always Open"). Select this item and then choose the application you'd like to use from the list. Bingo!

Zip through Podcast Lists

Click on Podcasts in Apple's iTunes 7 Library list to reveal a list of every podcast you've downloaded. Look closely, and you'll see the standard Mac disclosure triangle to the left of each podcast's title (see "Podcast List"). Click on one to show episodes within that podcast. But you probably already knew that. So here's the hint—two hints, actually.

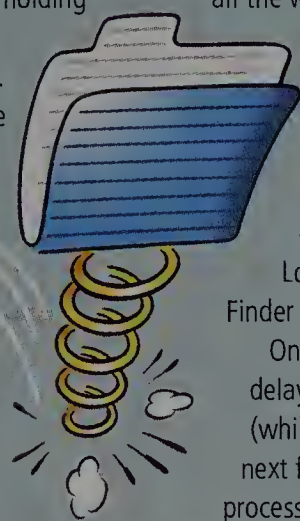
Spring into Action

If you're new to the Mac, you may be surprised to discover that all OS X folders have a built-in spring mechanism. No, they don't bounce like cars on a dirt road. Instead, they spring open when you need them to—no clicking required. This greatly eases the task of filing things. There's no need to open two windows to see the source and the destination at the same time. Instead, pick up the item you wish to file, and use spring-loaded folders to navigate to the destination. Here's how it works.

The Basics A spring-loaded folder is nothing more than a folder that opens automatically and shows you its contents when you drag something onto it—drag and *hold*, that is, not drag and drop. Try it: click and hold on a file on your desktop (or elsewhere). Keep holding the mouse button down and drag the file over to any folder. Now wait (keep holding that mouse button down!). After about a second or so, the folder over which the cursor is hovering will open, revealing its contents.

Exactly what you see depends on which Finder view mode you're using. In both the Icon and the List views, OS X will open a new window showing the folder's contents. In Column view (my favorite), the folder's contents will become visible in the next empty column.

Keep holding down the mouse button to dive deeper into your hard drive. After the first new window opens, find another folder and drag your file over it, wait a second, and watch it open. Releasing the mouse button will move whatever file you've been dragging into the front-most window. But if you don't want to move the file you're drag-



ging—or if you change your mind—you can cancel at any time by pressing the escape key. The dragged file will disappear from under your mouse and return to its original location. (You must press escape while you're still holding down the mouse button.)

Ways to Speed Things Up If you do this often, though, you'll soon be frustrated by that one-second delay each time you open a folder on the way to your destination. You can hurry things up by going to Finder: Preferences and clicking on the General tab. At the bottom of the window, you'll see a Delay slider that controls the length of the delay before a spring-loaded folder pops open.

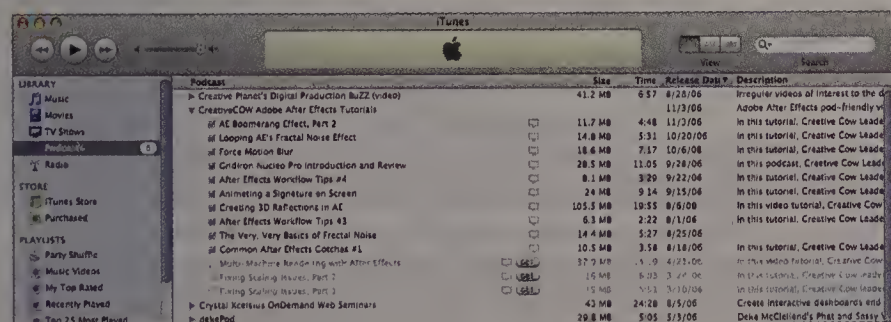
Even if you're looking for speed, I don't recommend moving this slider all the way to the left toward Short. Folders will accidentally pop open all the time as you drag objects around, and—trust me—this is a real pain.

So here's my remedy. It requires an extra key press, but it removes all question as to which folder you wish to open. To gain complete control over spring-loaded folders, turn the feature off. That's right; deselect the Spring-Loaded Folders And Windows option in the General tab of the Finder Preferences window.

Once you do, you'll be able to pop open any folder without delay: just drag an object onto the folder, press the spacebar (while still holding the mouse button down), continue to the next folder, press the spacebar again, and so on. This makes the process both fast and accurate.

First, if you hold down the ⌘ key when clicking on any podcast's triangle, then *every* podcast in your list will expand to show episodes; ⌘-click again, and they all collapse. Second, if you ever remove episodes from the list (just highlight one and press delete to remove it), you can get the full episode list by option-clicking on the disclosure triangle. iTunes queries the server and downloads the information for any missing episodes. Click on the Get button to retrieve the files again.

You can even combine these two tips—hold down ⌘-option and click on a disclosure triangle. Every podcast in the list will expand, and iTunes will download all missing episode details again. Note that this action will download episode information for any podcasts in your list—even those you don't currently subscribe to.



Podcast List With a couple of keyboard shortcuts, you can quickly expand and contract your full list of podcasts, as well as retrieve the complete list of episodes—even if you've deleted some of them.

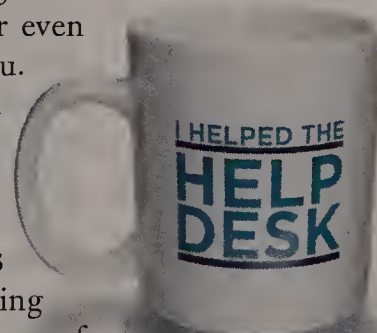
Edit Smart Playlists

Do you use a lot of smart playlists in iTunes? Are you constantly tweaking them to get them just right? If so, here's a quick way to edit them—quicker even than using the control-click contextual menu. Just option-click on the smart playlist you'd like to edit, and the Smart Playlist editing window will instantly appear.

Drag and Drop to Dashboard Widgets

If you're using Mac OS X 10.4, here's something you may not have realized about Dashboard: many of its widgets support drag and drop. To drag text and images to Dashboard, just click and hold on the object or text you wish to drag, start dragging, press F12 to activate Dashboard, and then navigate to the desired widget's work area and drop the selection. Note that the widget must already be open—you can't open a widget from the Dashboard bar while dragging something.

So when might you want to do this? Suppose you're browsing the Web, looking for information on some recent event in Spain. You don't speak Spanish, but one of the links leads to a Spanish-language Web site. Highlight the text you wish to translate and drag it into the Translation widget (assuming you have the widget set continues



Have a hint? Go to MacOSX-Hints.com to share it. This column was based on tips from Mike Calvert, Ronald Cross, Visa Kopu, George Simler IV, Steve Zaslavsky, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.



POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Add AppleScript Support to Preview

Apple's scripting language, AppleScript, is a powerful tool for automating the things you do most often. (For AppleScript basics, see "Using Tiger: Learning AppleScript" at macworld.com/2343.) So it's surprising that Apple's own Preview—the Mac's default application for opening most images—doesn't support it.

With some know-how, an intrepid user can fix that. You won't get perfect or complete AppleScript access, but you will gain the basic suites—Standard Suite, Text Suite, and Type Definitions. With these working, you can create time-saving scripts that manipulate windows, print images, open and close files, and so on.

So how do you add AppleScript support? Probably the quickest way is to use Terminal. Open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and type this command (or copy and paste it from macworld.com/2344):

```
defaults write /Applications/Preview.app/
Contents/Info NSAppleScriptEnabled -bool YES
That's it—not too hard, was it?
```

What did you actually do? You just told the system to modify the Info.plist file for Preview by adding one Boolean (YES or NO) variable (NSAppleScriptEnabled) and setting it to YES—in other words, enabling it. Just that will gain you a fair amount of AppleScript functionality in Preview.

To see an example, open an image with Preview and then switch to Script Editor (/Applications/AppleScript). Type this command and click on Run:

```
tell application "Preview"
close window 1
end tell
```

The Preview window will vanish. Nice!

To use an advanced Preview script that takes advantage of the newly added AppleScript support, go to the Red Sweater Blog (macworld.com/2345).

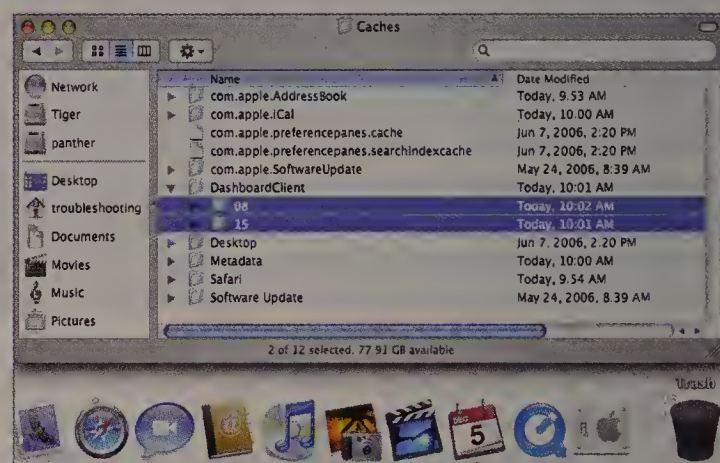
to translate Spanish into English, of course). Or say you need to look up words in the dictionary. OS X has a great built-in dictionary feature (control-click on a word and choose Look Up In Dictionary from the pop-up menu), but it doesn't work in every application. If you're in an unsupported application, such as Microsoft Word, highlight the text you wish to define, drag it, press F12, and drop the word into the Dictionary widget's search field. Presto! You have an instant definition (see "Define a Shortcut"). You can streamline this process even more by using a multi-button mouse—assign one of the buttons to activate Dashboard, via the Dashboard & Exposé preference pane (or by using your mouse's control software to assign F12 to a button). Now you can click on and drag the text (hold that mouse button down!), and then drop it onto the desired Dashboard widget.

Speed Up Dashboard

The problem may start slowly—each time you activate Dashboard, the process takes a bit longer or you experience delays when working with certain widgets. One day you realize that Dashboard is just plain slow.

Why? As you work with various widgets, the Dashboard application caches information. In other words, it creates a local copy of widgets' data. If you need to access that data again, the cache should make the process faster by sparing Dashboard a trip to the Internet. But in some cases, it takes longer to read the cache file than it would to go get the data again.

The solution is to throw all of Dashboard's cache files in the Trash and then empty the Trash. You'll



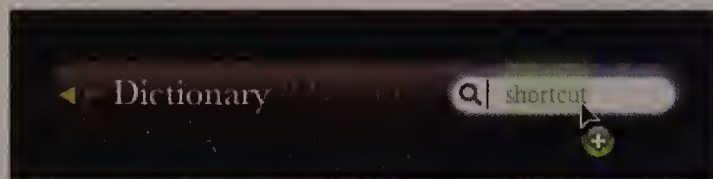
Take Out the Trash Has Dashboard slowed to a crawl? Try emptying its cache.

find the files in *your user folder/Library/Caches/DashboardClient*. After doing this, you'll need to restart the Dock, as that's the program that controls Dashboard. You can do this by using Terminal or Activity Monitor (both in /Applications/Utilities). In Terminal, just type `killall Dock`. In Activity Monitor, type `dock` into the program's search box, click once on the Dock process, click on the Quit Process button, and then click on the Quit button in the resulting dialog box. In either case, the Dock will restart automatically; after it does, try loading Dashboard and see if it runs any faster.

If this technique works and you'd like to permanently prevent Dashboard from creating cache files, that's quite simple to do, too. Navigate to the DashboardClient folder, select it, and then open the Get Info window (⌘-I). In the General section of the Info window, click on the Locked check box. Once the folder is locked, Dashboard won't be able to write to it any more. (Obviously, to reverse this, just open Get Info again and deselect the Locked option.) □

Define a Shortcut

It's a drag that programs such as Microsoft Word don't support OS X's Dictionary. But you can get around that by dragging and dropping text from the program straight into the Dictionary widget.



Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS runs MacOSXHints.com.

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Mac 911

Solutions to Your Most Vexing Mac Problems

Manage iWeb Pages from Anywhere

I used to share my photos via .Mac's HomePage feature. Now that I've upgraded to iLife '06, iWeb is more suitable for my needs. The only problem is that with iWeb, I can manage my site only from my home computer. Is there any way to edit my iWeb site when I'm *not* at home?

WL Cheung

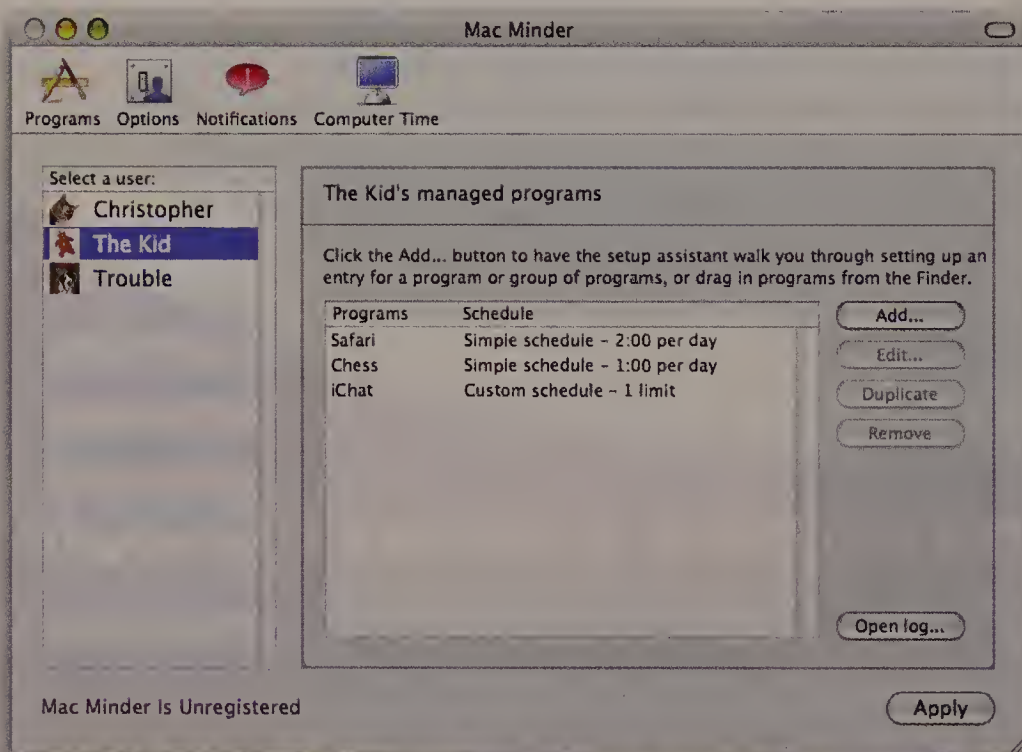
You can indeed manage an iWeb site from more than one computer, but doing so isn't as easy as managing your .Mac page was.

iWeb stores its resources in your user folder—specifically, here: *your user folder/Library/Application Support/iWeb/Domain.sites*. When you're away from your home computer, you're usually away from that Domain.sites file and all its goods.

To muck with your iWeb site on another Mac, you must first copy this Domain file from your home Mac to the second Mac, taking care to put the copy in the same folder on it. When you launch iWeb on the second Mac, iWeb should display the site you created and let you edit it as you like. When you return home, you'll need to copy the updated Domain file back to its original location on your home Mac, replacing the now out-of-date file.

Alternatively, if you have enough online storage space, you could copy the Domain file to a protected area of your iDisk and then download the file to any Mac you're using when you're out and about.

Minor Minder You can control your kids' computer time with Mac Minder.



Which Is Better: .Mac or iLife?

I have a number of vacation photos I'd like to put online, with a caption below each. I have a .Mac account. I have iLife '05, but I just bought iLife '06. Should I use HomePage or iWeb?

Alan Serotta

Either can do the job, but iWeb has so many advantages that I couldn't imagine doing things the old-fashioned .Mac HomePage way unless I needed to quickly post some pictures from a computer that wasn't my own (more on that in a bit).

To begin with, iWeb is faster. Because your site is stored locally, you don't have to wait for your Web pages to download before you can work on them. Nor do you have to wait while you upload a bunch of pictures to your iDisk; all the pictures you'll be working with are on your Mac, and you can save the tedious uploading part for when you've completed your page. And iLife's Media Browser lets you easily see what you'll be adding to your iWeb page. It couldn't be much simpler. Just click on the Photos tab in the Media Browser, choose an album, and drag selected pictures (or the entire album) into an iWeb photo page.

Both iWeb and HomePage allow you to change the frame style of your pictures, but iWeb does it faster, with the little Style pop-up menu that appears when you select a photo on a page and choose the Inspector window's Graphic tab. Unlike HomePage, iWeb lets you change the page's background—with a gradient fill or even a semitransparent image. In iWeb, it's easy to set the amount of space you want between your images and their captions. And the Mac's spelling checker is built into iWeb, so it's easy to track down misspellings in your captions.

So are there no advantages to HomePage? As with many of .Mac's tools, there is one: If you're not at your own computer—if you're using one at an Internet café, a library, or a friend's house, for example—you can still use HomePage to easily create a page full of pictures on-the-fly (provided that either you can upload those images to your iDisk or the images already exist on that iDisk). When traveling abroad this summer, I couldn't jack my PowerBook into my hotel's Internet connection, but I was able to use one of the computers in the hotel's business center. From that computer, I was able to post a few snaps I'd taken to a HomePage photo album. I couldn't have done that with iWeb.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Keeping an Eye on Kids' Computing

If we didn't stop them, our children would play online games such as *World of Warcraft* endlessly. I've seen a program called *Time Boss for Windows* that allows parents to set time limits on the use of certain programs. Is there an equivalent program for the Mac?

Kerry Fisher

You bet. Luma Code's *Mac Minder* (\$30; www.lumacode.com) can provide the service you seek (see "Minor Minder"). It allows you to set time limits for single applications or groups of applications (all games or all browsers, for example). Just choose a user account, pick an application or a group of applications, and create either a simple schedule (one that limits the user to, say, one hour a day for applications in the Games group) or a custom schedule (which lets you specify how much time your kids can use a given app or group of apps each day: an hour between 4 and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, for example).

The program requires that the administrator (a parent or teacher, for instance) enter a master password to create or edit schedules. Switching accounts won't crack it—you need to know that master password to work with schedules. Version 2.5 lets you administer Macs remotely. You can also log and graph use by day and user and track user logins and logouts.

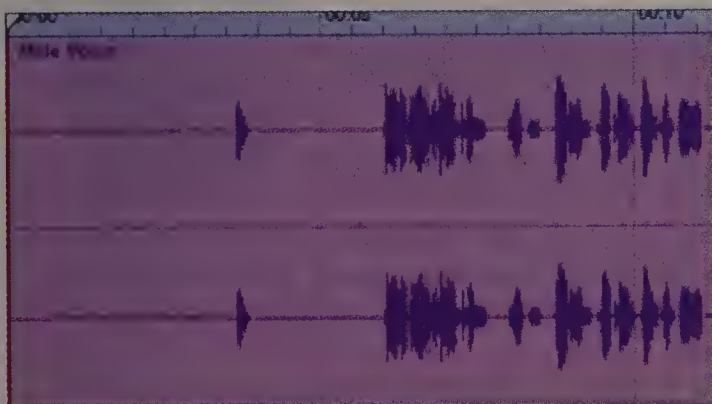
Note that if you can wait, Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) will have far more extensive parental controls than the current Accounts preference pane provides. We'll just have to wait and see whether these new features will exceed what you get from *Mac Minder* and similar apps.

Recording Conversations on Skype

A friend who lives across the country and I have been trying to put together a podcast, using Skype and recording both sides of the conversation. We've had a ton of problems, including lost connections and bad sound. Is there a way to do it without all the glitches?

Steve Larson

I've participated in a few podcasts using Skype and have to agree with you: free though Skype may be,



Start . . . Now! A telltale spike in the waveform will help you synchronize tracks.

Trim Your Mail Folder

I was running out of disk space on my PowerBook, and it occurred to me to look through my old Entourage mail to see if I could clean things up there.

When scrolling through my Sent Items folder, I realized that I had tons of old sent messages with attachments. Presumably, I have copies of all those attached files somewhere else, so I don't really need them in Entourage. I sorted the Sent Items folder by Attachment, selected all the messages that had attachments, and then selected Message: Remove All Attachments.

To further trim Entourage's database, I archived a lot of old mail into a new mailbox, dragged that mailbox to the desktop to create an .mbox file, backed that file up, and trashed the original mailbox in Entourage. Finally, I quit Entourage and relaunched it while holding down the option key. When the Database Utility appeared, I chose the option to compact the database. When the Database Utility finished, my database was a third less bloated than when I started.

Jack Stephens

recording podcasts over it is a pain in the neck. You have to put up with constant disconnections (particularly when recording conferences) and occasionally wonky sound.

One answer is the dual-recording technique: Before podcast participants get on the line, everyone launches an audio-recording application on his or her computer and records his or her end of the conversation. Ideally, those recordings will be done in the same format.

One member of the podcast should ask that, on the count of three, everyone clap loudly just before the podcast begins (see "Start . . . Now!"). This produces an audio spike that's easily discerned in the resulting recordings' waveforms. When the podcast concludes, all participants save their recordings and ship them off to the person responsible for editing the podcast.

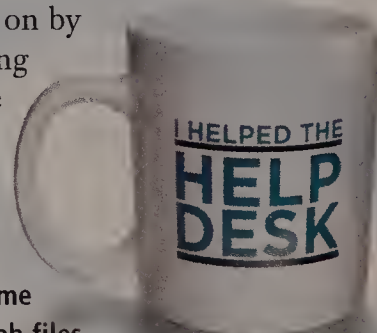
That person then imports each of the individual files into *GarageBand* (or any multitrack audio editor), switches on waveform viewing (if it's not on by default), and uses the clap spike at the beginning of the recordings to line up the tracks. The resulting sound will be far superior to anything you'll get from Skype.

Editing Old Home Videos

I'm trying to use a DVD recorder to transfer my home videos to DVD. Then I'd like to be able to edit the .vob files from the DVD to cut out unnecessary footage. How do I transfer those .vob files from the DVD into an editing program on my Mac, without having to demultiplex them, recompress them, and so on? I've tried *DVD Studio Pro* without any luck.

Sarah McDonald

First, you'll need a few apps: *Squared 5's* free *MPEG Streamclip* (www.squared5.com), Apple's *QuickTime MPEG-2 Playback Component* (\$20; www.apple.com) continues



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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Amateur Digital Photographer's Toolkit

As enthusiastic as I am about digital photography, I'm hardly a professional. But I'm getting better—largely because I've finally stuffed the right collection of accessories into my camera bag. Maybe the following items will help you, too.

Extra Media Card My camera's pixel count is high enough, and storage prices are low enough, that I'm now shooting uncompressed raw images. I've also learned about the wonders of bracketing to capture images at different exposures. This eats up memory in a big way. Don't be caught with a camera that's too full to capture the perfect image.

Lens Cloth Camera lenses get smudged. Stop by the local spectacles emporium and pick up a cloth for cleaning a dusty or smudgy lens.

Extra Batteries If you run out of space on your media card, you can always make room by dumping images you know you won't want. But if your battery dies, there's no such easy fix. No power on earth except a freshly charged spare will make your camera work again.



The Manual Because I'm a Mac user, I don't generally read manuals. But my camera is a complex device, and having the manual is useful when I want to know how to make the camera jump through an obscure hoop.

Small Tripod I drink a lot of coffee and therefore don't have the steadiest hands. If you're like me, pick up a small tripod that you can pack in your pocket. When the light is low, you'll be glad you did.

Card Reader When shooting in the field, I sometimes bring a laptop for previewing images. Having a card reader that plugs into my PowerBook's PC Card slot is a godsend. Unlike using a USB cable strung from camera to computer, transferring images through a card doesn't pull power from my camera's battery. No PC Card slot on your laptop? A USB card reader works just as well.

Picture Rescue If your camera's media card becomes confused or corrupted, you'll need a utility to help retrieve your precious images. Prosoft Engineering's Picture Rescue (\$59; www.prosofteng.com) is the tool to use.

.com), and Roxio's Toast (\$80; www.roxio.com). If you have Final Cut Pro or DVD Studio Pro, that MPEG-2 Playback Component should already be on your Mac—it's included with those programs.

Once you have the apps, drag the .vob file you want to edit from the DVD into MPEG Streamclip. If there are additional .vob files associated with the one you've dragged into the program; you'll be asked if you'd like to import all the parts of your movie. Yes, you would.

In MPEG Streamclip, use the Cut, Paste, and Trim commands to edit your video. Once it's edited to your satisfaction, choose File: Save As, and save your edited file as a new .vob file; that way, your original .vob file won't need any demultiplexing and recompressing. iDVD and DVD Studio Pro won't take the resulting .vob file, but Roxio's Toast will. Create a DVD-Video project in Toast, and drag the .vob file directly into Toast's main window; then you should be good to go.

If you care to, you can export your video to another format that DVD Studio Pro will accept: MPEG Streamclip can export these files as standard QuickTime, DV, AVI, or MPEG-4 files.

Audio Cable Conundrum

I'm trying to import audio from an old tape deck to my iBook G4. That iBook doesn't have a mic/line-in port, so I'll need to use

some sort of USB device. Assuming I can buy an external device—such as Griffin's \$40 iMic (www.griffintechology.com)—to serve as an interface between my Mac and the tape deck, what kind of cables will I need to connect the tape deck to that external device and from that device to my Mac?

Michael Sung

Every device of this type that I've encountered—including the iMic—comes with the USB cable you need to connect it to your iBook. If whatever device you end up buying doesn't come with one, you'll need to find a standard A-to-B USB cable. The A side, which goes into your computer, has a rectangular male connector; the B connector is squarish and connects to the USB audio interface.

The cable you need for the other leg of the connection depends on your output device and the audio interface. Typical cassette players include RCA output ports—those red and white plugs that populate the typical home stereo. USB audio interfaces sometimes have RCA inputs as well. If so, just get a standard RCA-to-RCA cable and you're in business.

The 1/8-inch minijack is increasingly popular on audio interface hardware. (The iMic, for example, includes minijack in and out.) This is the same kind of connector that your iBook's headphone port uses. If you have a standard cassette player with RCA outputs, you'll need an RCA-to-stereo miniplug Y cable (see "Coping with Cables"). A quick trip to Radio Shack should secure one for less than \$10 (assuming you look elsewhere in the store after the clerk directs you to the nicely made, but really expensive, Monster cables). □

Senior Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, second edition (Peachpit Press, 2006).

Coping with Cables

Need to connect audio hardware to your Mac? An RCA-to-miniplug Y cable is an increasingly popular answer.



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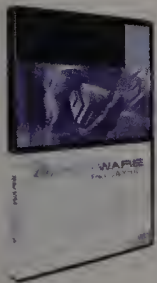
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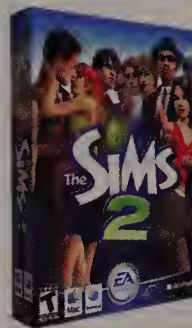
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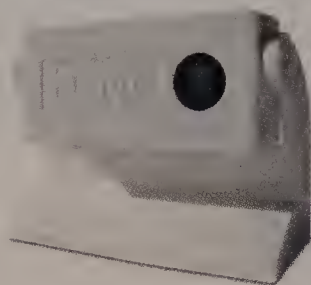
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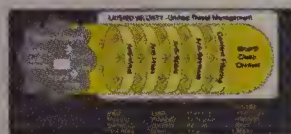
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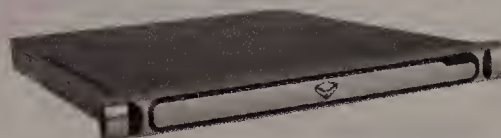
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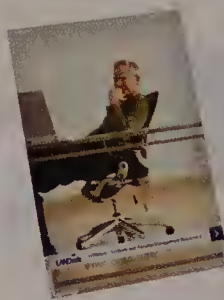
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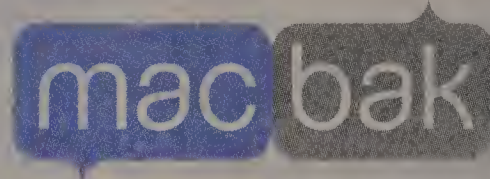
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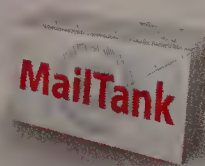
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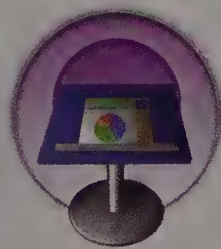
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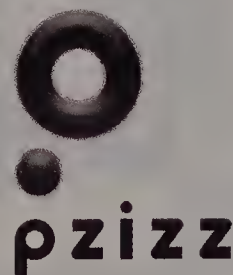


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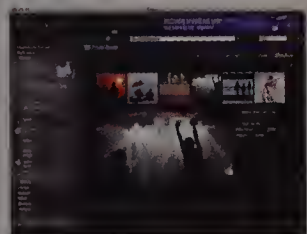
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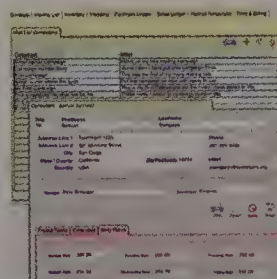


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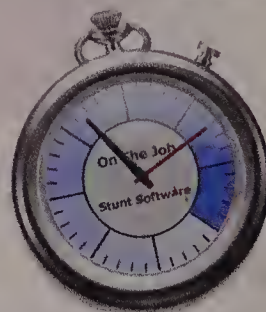
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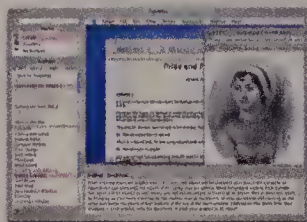
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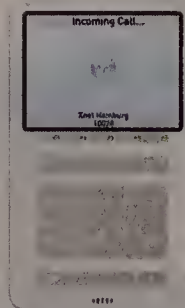
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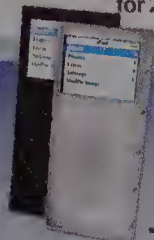
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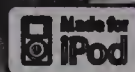
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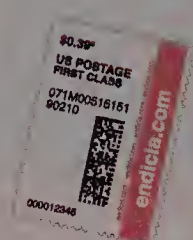
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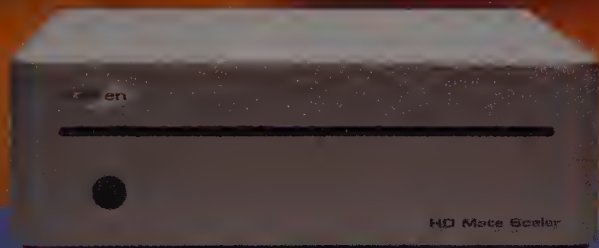
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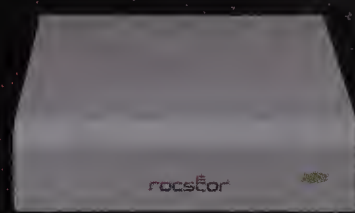
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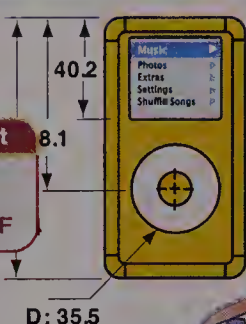


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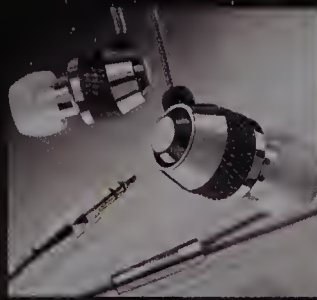
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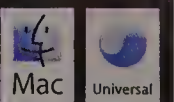
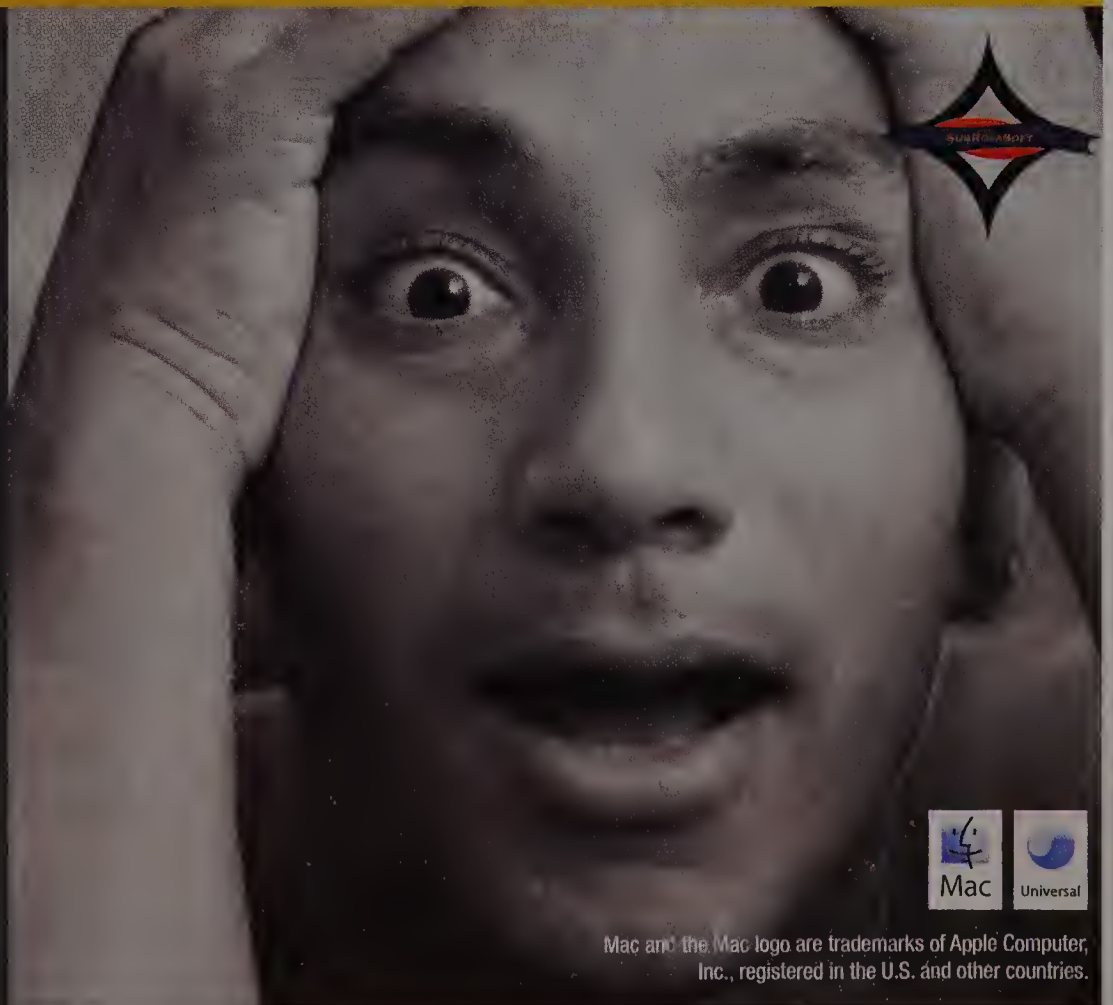
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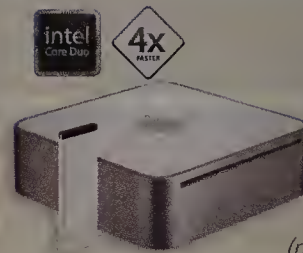
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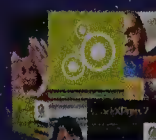
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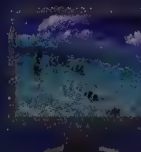
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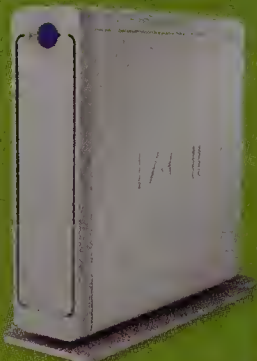
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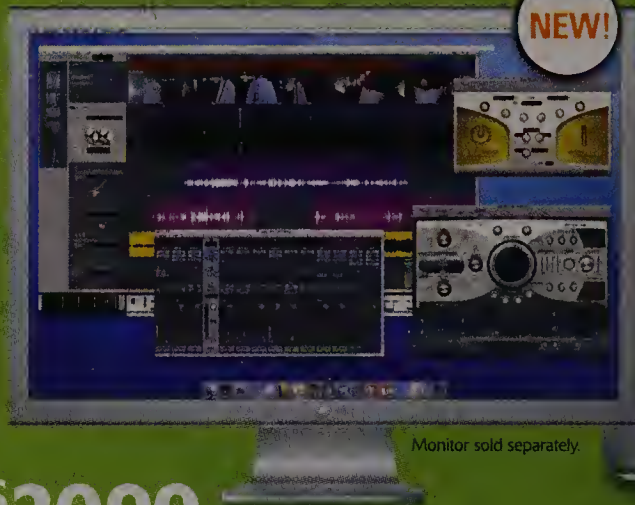


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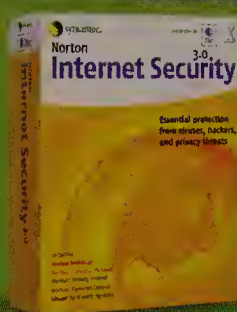
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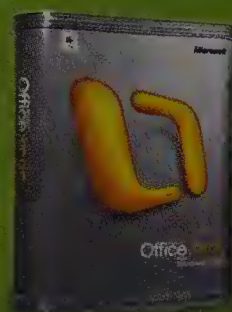
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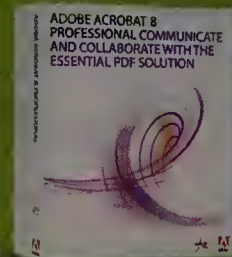
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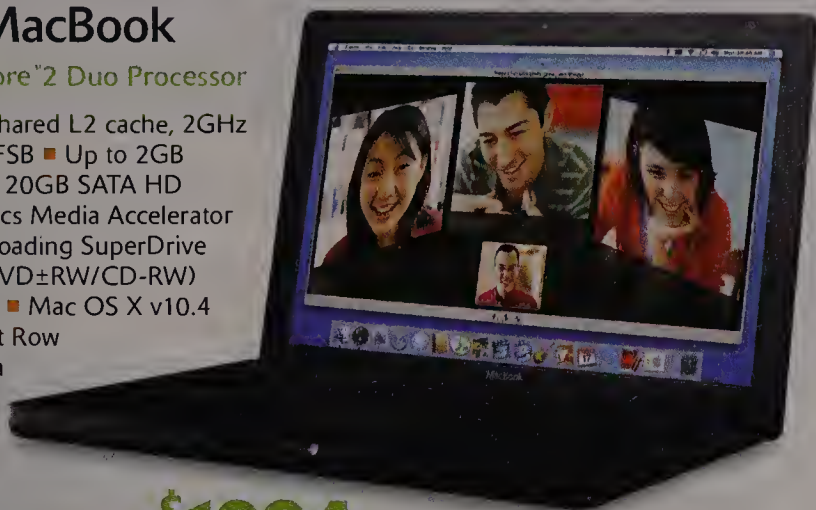


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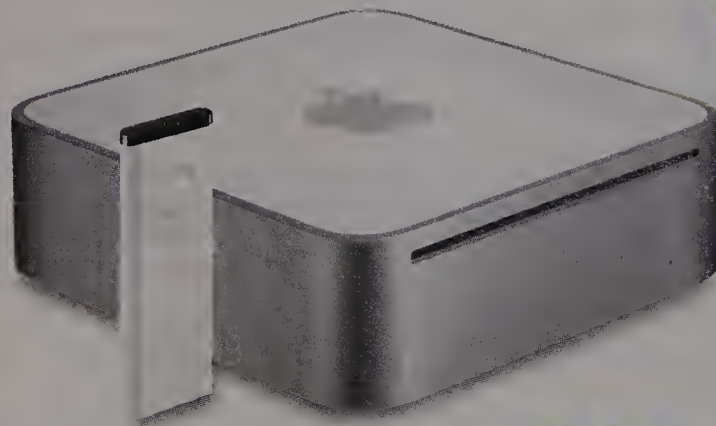
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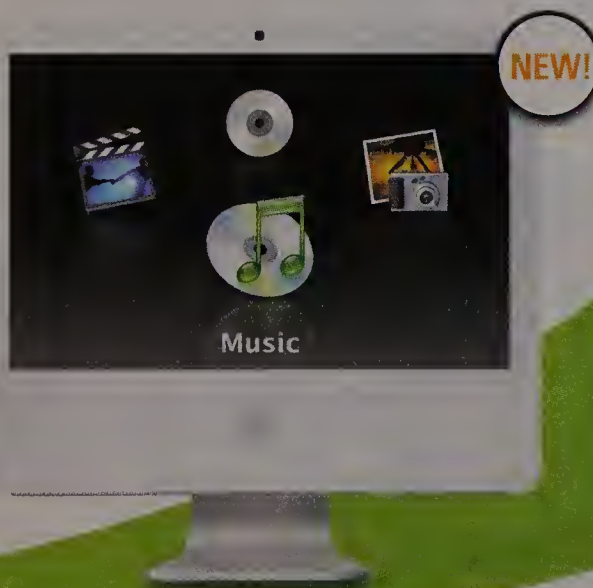
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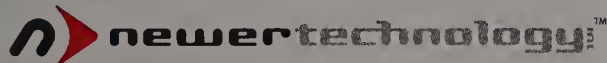
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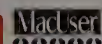
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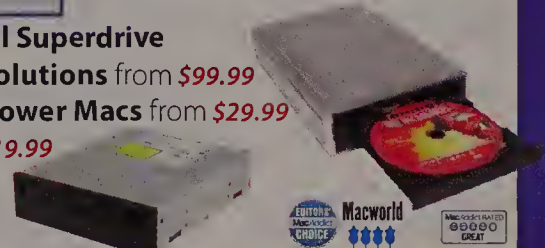


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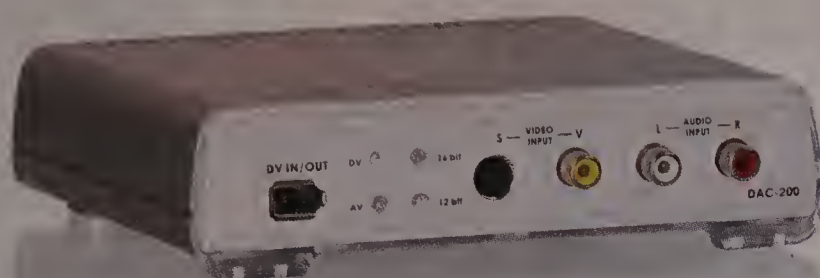
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AEC	aecsoft.com	26	Mac Support Experts	macsupportexperts.com	124
AMCC	3ware.com	42	Mac-Pro	mac-pro.com	130
AmericasPrinter.com	americasprinter.com	129	Macally	macally.com	122
Anthro	anthro.com/mac	33	MacConnection	macconnection.com/mw	112-113
Apple Computer	apple.com	C2-1	MacHighway	machighway.com	122
Apricorn	apricorn.com/macworld	44	MacMall	macmall.com	4, 110-111
Aspyr	aspyr.com	47	MacSpeech	macspeech.com	108
ATTO Technology	attotech.com/mac.html	105	Macworld Expo	macworldexpo.com	77
Audioengine	audioengineusa.com	123	Mark/Space	markspace.com	117
Axio Designs	axio-usa.com	120	Marware	marware.com	118
Battery Geek	batterygeek.net	121	Matias	matias.ca/mw	106
BeLight Software	belightsoft.com	105	MegaMacs	megamacs.com	128
Biomorph	biomorph.com	119	Micromat	micromat.com	25
Booq, LLC	booqbags.com	119	MicroReplay	microreplay.com	129
Buffalo Technology	buffalotech.com/techworks	105	NEC	necdisplay.com/pro	7
Bumbakpaks	bumbakpaks.com	119	New Egg	newegg.com	20-21
CalDigit	caldigit.com	46	Omni Group	blog.omnigroup.com	31
CDW	cdw.com	29	Other World Computing	macsales.com	C3, 13, 114-115
Circus Ponies	circusponies.com	32	Pacific Rim	pacrimtechnologies.com	105
Creative Juices	bigposters.com	124	Portable Sound Labs	imaingo.com	41
Crucial Technology	crucial.com/macworld	43	PowerMax	powermax.com	131
DataVideo	datavideo.us	117	ProClip	proclipusa.com	108
Dekorra Optics	eazydraw.com	108	Prosoft Engineering	prosofteng.com	117
Disc Makers	discmakers.com/mw	126	QuickerTek	quickertek.com	123
DLO	dlo.com	45	Radtech	radtech.com	124
Dr. Bott	drbott.com/local	51	Rain Design	raindesigninc.com	121
Drive Savers	drivesavers.com	125	Ramjet	ramjet.com	129
EDG Graphics	edgmiami.com	124	Retractable Banners	tradeshow-stuff.com	124
Elgato Systems	elgato.com	18	Ricoh	ricoh-usa.com/itchannel	30, 40
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Epson	epson.com	2-3	Rosetta Stone	rosettastone.com	75
ESS Data Recovery Labs	savemyfiles.com	125	RTA Products	rtaproducts.com	121
Etymotic Research	etymotic.com	28	SeafoodByNet	seafoodbynet.com	130
FatCow	fatcow.com/mac	126	Secure-it	secure-it.com	117
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G-Technology	g-technology.com	106	Sonnet	sonnettech.com/solutions	44
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Granite Digital	granitedigital.com	118, 120	V-Moda	v-moda.com	109
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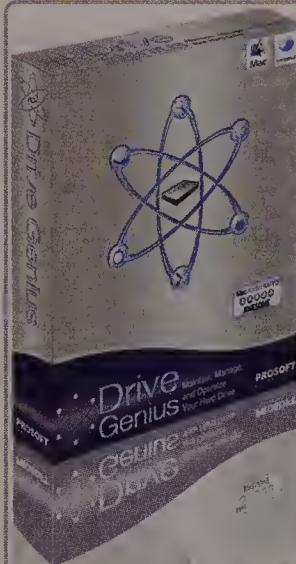
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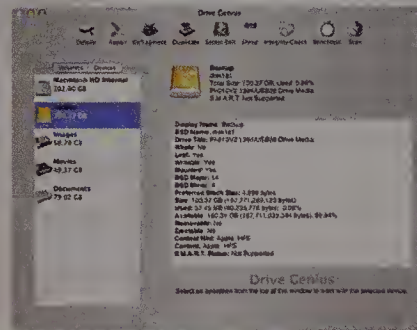
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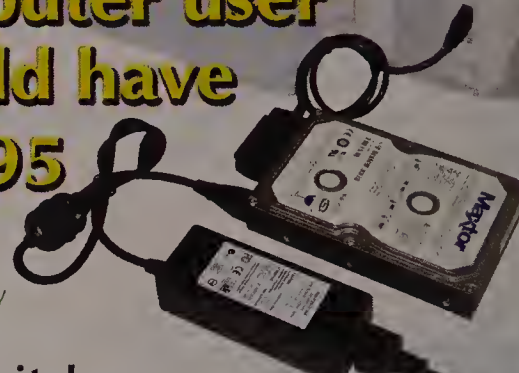
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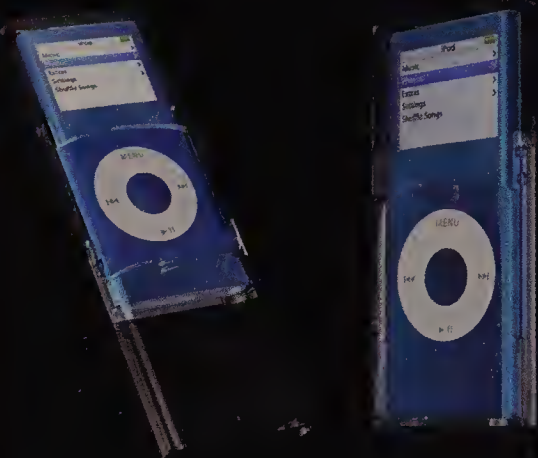
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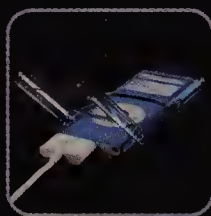
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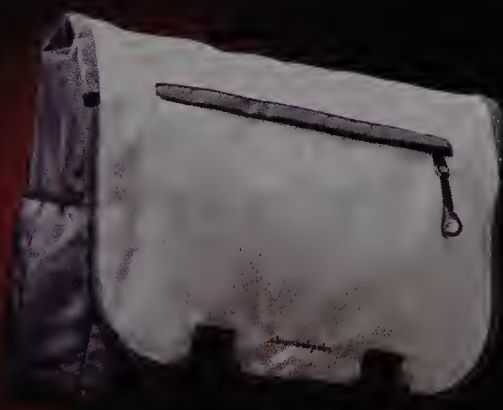
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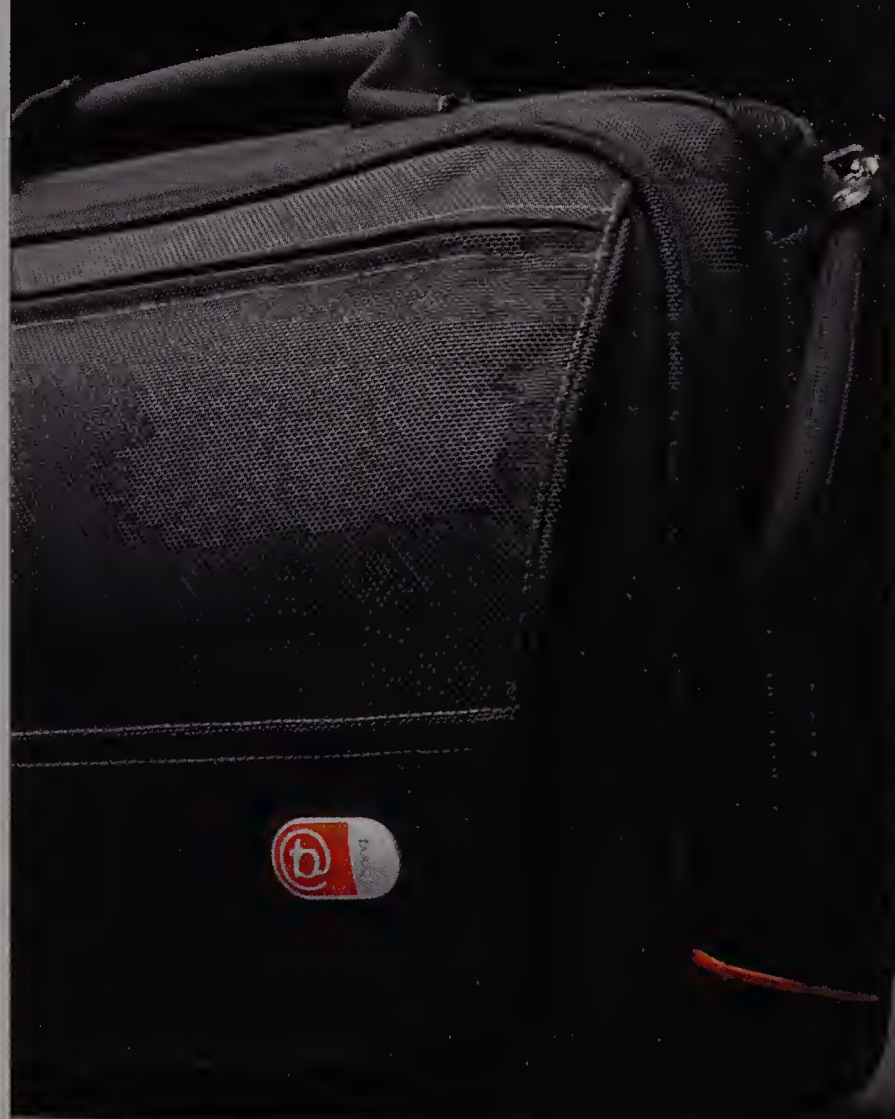
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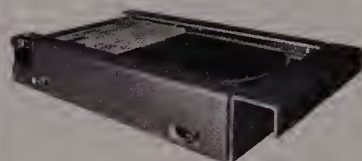
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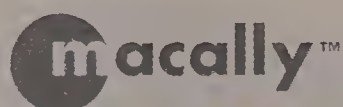
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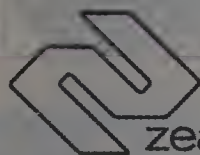
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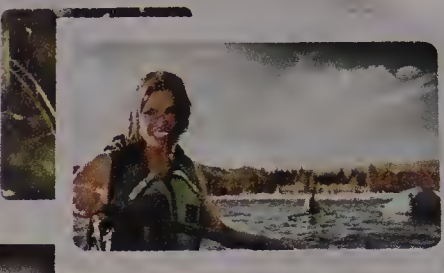
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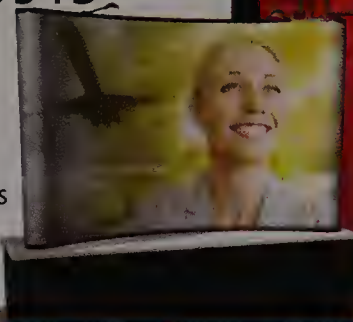
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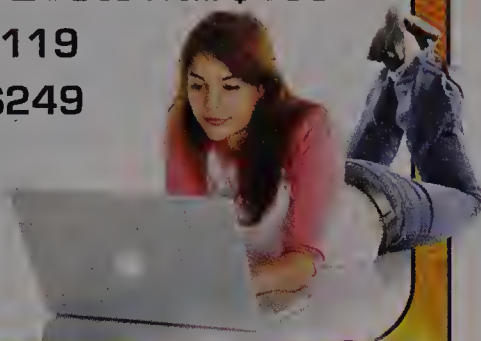
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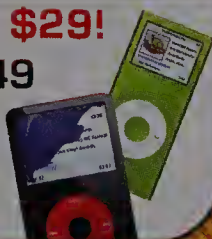
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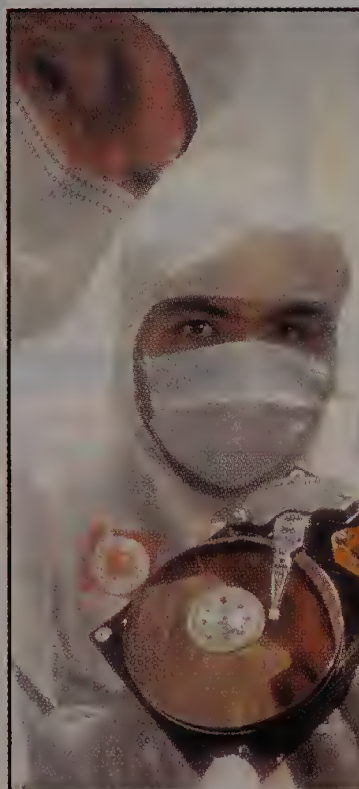
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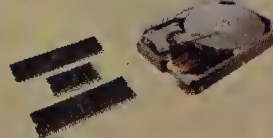
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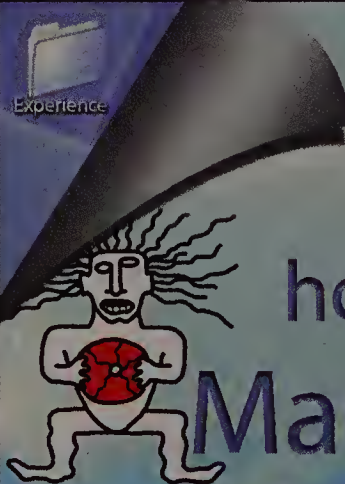
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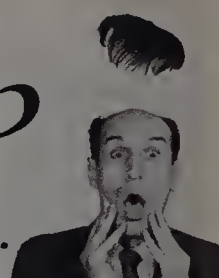
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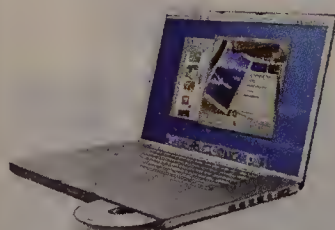
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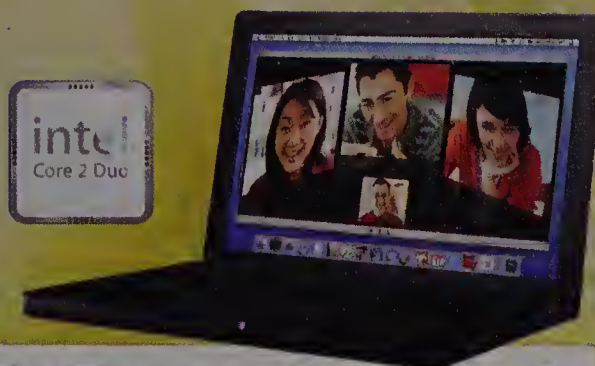
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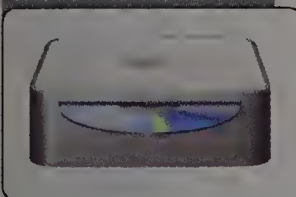
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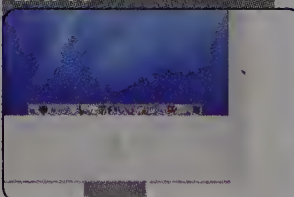
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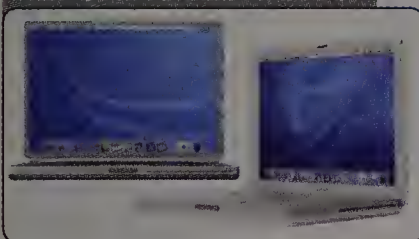
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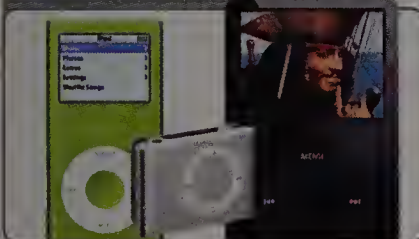
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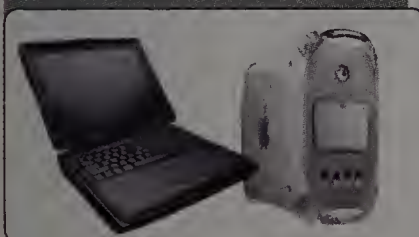
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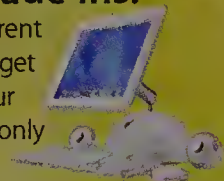
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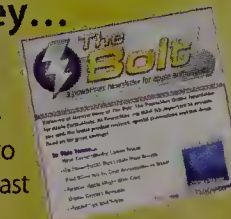
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FROM THE EDITORS OF MACWORLD



RADEON X1900 G5 MAC EDITION

Feel like your PCI Express-based Power Mac G5's graphics performance is a bit slow? Suffer no more, thanks to ATI's \$349 Radeon X1900 G5 Mac Edition card. While it isn't quite as quick as the Mac Pro's X1900 card (which, by the way, doesn't work in G5s), it's significantly faster than the Nvidia GeForce 6600 that's in most Power Macs of this vintage. With 256MB of VRAM and two dual-link DVI connectors, you can attach two 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Displays with no problem at all. The card also has an S-Video connector, so you can hook up your G5 to a TV or home entertainment system (ati.amd.com).—PETER COHEN

eFilm ExpressCard 34

Serious photographers—and even many not-so-serious ones—will tell you that a media-card reader is the way to get your photos onto your computer. Using a card reader is faster than connecting your camera to your Mac, and it saves your camera's battery for shooting photos. Although there are plenty of USB card readers out there, and even a few FireWire models, they clutter desks with cables, and I hate messy cables. I was pleased to discover Delkin Devices' \$60 eFilm ExpressCard 34, an ExpressCard card reader—finally—for the MacBook Pro. The card slides into your laptop's ExpressCard slot and provides a CompactFlash (Types I and II) card reader that offers high-speed file transfers without the cables. Apple uses the smaller 34 slot rather than the wider 54 version, so the eFilm and your memory card protrude from your MacBook Pro during use, but that's a fair trade-off for people looking for a small, fast reader for their cameras that use CompactFlash cards (www.delkin.com).—DAN FRANKS



PiXel Check 1.2

If you've recently unpacked your new iMac, MacBook, or monitor, or if you're getting ready to sell an older LCD-based product, you should inspect your screen closely for dead or "stuck" pixels. For new machines, malfunctioning pixels (which Apple refers to as "pixel anomalies") can be grounds for screen replacement if there are enough within a certain area. And buyers of used hardware are greatly interested in the quality of the screen, in which a dead pixel can range from a minor detail to a nagging annoyance. To examine displays, I found Michael Simmons's free PiXel Check, which can fill the screen with bold, solid colors to give you a good look at a display's capabilities. You can choose between the three subpixel colors (red, green, and blue) to display, as well as plain black and white, or run them all with a click of the Automatic button. You can even keep this tiny app on a USB flash drive for checking out new displays or diagnosing other people's hardware (macworld.com/2391).—COLLIN ALLEN



Moo MiniCards

The practice of handing out personal calling cards began in 15th-century China. I'm pinning my hopes of a renaissance on Flickr. If you're a member of the innovative photo-sharing site, you can turn your snapshots into tiny calling cards—called Moo MiniCards—and hand them out to anyone and everyone you meet. For \$20, Moo gives you 100 cards with your favorite image, 100 random pictures, or something in between on the front, and the text of your choice on the back (www.moo.com).—ERIC SUESZ



Nikon D40

Making the leap from a fully automated point-and-shoot camera to a digital SLR can be intimidating, but things just got much easier with Nikon's new D40. In addition to being one of the smallest, lightest, and least expensive digital SLRs around (\$600 with a lens), the camera comes with an expansive help system that includes example photos, so you can see when to use settings such as exposure compensation, spot metering, and white-balance adjustments. The 6.1-megapixel camera includes many of the same features found on Nikon's more expensive models. And it lets you easily customize the LCD to provide quick access to the most important camera settings (www.nikonusa.com).—KELLY TURNER



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